

FOR ALUMNI OF  
THE ACADEMIC  
CAMPUS OF  
VIRGINIA  
COMMONWEALTH  
UNIVERSITY

# SHAFFER

COCKET

## CONNECTIONS

FALL 1994

# HOLLYWOOD OR THE BIG APPLE?

BOTH! A VCU STARBURST ACROSS FILMS AND TV.



# 1994-95 VCU BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

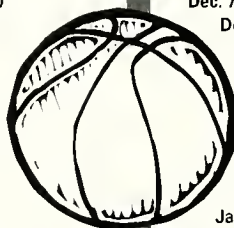
## Men's

**Nov. 25-27 (Fri-Sun)** at Big Isle Invitational  
VCU vs. Hawaii at Hilo 12:45  
**Nov. 30 (Wed)** LIBERTY 7:30  
**Dec. 3 (Sat)** ALABAMA 7:30  
**Dec. 5 (Mon)** at Tennessee-Martin (1140) 8:30  
**Dec. 10 (Sat)** at Florida International 7:30  
**Dec. 18 (Sun)** at Illinois State (1140) 2:00  
**Dec. 23 (Wed)** TENNESSEE STATE 7:30  
**Dec. 28 (Wed)** MOUNT ST. MARY'S 7:30  
**Dec. 31 (Sat)** RHODE ISLAND 1:00  
**Jan. 3 (Tue)** GEORGE MASON (1140) 7:30  
**Jan. 5 (Thu)** LOUISVILLE\* 7:30  
**Jan. 7 (Sat)** SOUTH FLORIDA\* 1:00  
**Jan. 11 (Wed)** at Richmond (950) 7:30  
**Jan. 14 (Sat)** at Virginia Tech\* (Raycom) 12:00  
**Jan. 18 (Wed)** at James Madison (950) 7:30  
**Jan. 21 (Sat)** VIRGINIA UNION (1140) 1:00  
**Jan. 26 (Thu)** UNC CHARLOTTE\* (Prime) 8:00  
**Jan. 28 (Sat)** at South Florida\* 7:00  
**Feb. 1 (Wed)** RADFORD (950) 7:30  
**Feb. 4 (Sat)** SOUTHERN MISS\* (1140) 1:00  
**Feb. 6 (Mon)** Old Dominion (at Hampton) 7:30  
**Feb. 8 (Wed)** at Tulane\* (Prime) 8:00  
**Feb. 11 (Sat)** at Southern Miss\* (Raycom) (1140) 3:00  
**Feb. 18 (Sat)** at UNC Charlotte\* (Raycom) (1140) 3:00  
**Feb. 23 (Thu)** VIRGINIA TECH\* (Prime) 7:30  
**Feb. 25 (Sat)** TULANE\* (Raycom) 1:00  
**Mar. 2 (Thu)** at Louisville\* 7:30  
**Mar. 10-12 (Fri-Sun)** at Metro Conference Tournament  
Louisville, KY

All Game Times are Eastern Time Zone and Broadcast on Sports  
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Home games in all CAPS

\* Denotes Metro Conference game



## Women's

**Nov. 12 (Sat)** AUSTRIA HERZOGENBURG (Exhibition) 2:00  
**Nov. 26 (Sat)** LIBERTY 7:30  
**Nov. 30 (Wed)** OLD DOMINION 5:00  
**Dec. 3-4 (Sat-Sun)** at Iona Tournament TBA  
**Dec. 7 (Wed)** MD-EASTERN SHORE 7:00  
**Dec. 9 (Fri)** at James Madison 7:30  
**Dec. 14 (Wed)** HOWARD 7:00  
**Dec. 17 (Sat)** at George Mason 3:00  
**Dec. 21 (Wed)** at Richmond 7:00  
**Dec. 29 (Thu)** UNC-WILMINGTON 7:00  
**Jan. 6 (Fri)** at South Florida\* 7:00  
**Jan. 8 (Sun)** VIRGINIA TECH\* 2:00  
**Jan. 10 (Tue)** at East Carolina 7:00  
**Jan. 13 (Fri)** TULANE\* 7:00  
**Jan. 17 (Tue)** at Morgan State TBA  
**Jan. 22 (Sun)** UNC CHARLOTTE\* 2:00  
**Jan. 29 (Sun)** at Louisville\* 2:00  
**Feb. 3 (Fri)** at Tulane\* 7:00  
**Feb. 5 (Sun)** at Southern Mississippi\* 2:00  
**Feb. 8 (Wed)** RICHMOND 7:00  
**Feb. 12 (Sun)** SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI\* 2:00  
**Feb. 17 (Fri)** at Virginia Tech\* 7:00  
**Feb. 19 (Sun)** at UNC Charlotte\* 2:00  
**Feb. 21 (Tue)** WILLIAM & MARY 7:00  
**Feb. 24 (Fri)** LOUISVILLE\* 7:00  
**Feb. 26 (Sun)** SOUTH FLORIDA\* 2:00  
**Mar. 6-11 (Mon-Sat)** at Metro Conference Tournament  
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# SHAFFER COURT CONNECTIONS

## HAVING A BALL

*VCU athletes bounce and bound around the globe.*

8

## NEW DIGS

*VCU archaeologists are privy to secrets of the past.*

14

## ALL OUR CHILDREN

*Hard work and glory fill the days of their lives.*

16

## STARRY NIGHT

*Founders Day 1994.*

24

## DEPARTMENTS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAMPUS CURRENTS

## ALUMNET

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PRO FILE

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VOL. 1, NO. 3  
FALL 1994

Staff  
Mary Ellen Mercer  
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art director  
John Sarvary  
campus currents  
Phaedra Staton  
class notes  
Bill Iles  
director of alumni activities

Shafer Court Connections is a magazine for alumni and friends of the Academic Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. VCU is a public, urban university with an enrollment of 21,000 students on the Academic and Medical College of Virginia Campuses. The magazine is published three times a year by VCU Alumni Activities.

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VCU

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SCHINDLER '89

FALL 1994



I just wanted to tell you how much my wife and I have enjoyed your publication. We only recently got back to Richmond and we were very nostalgic for our days at VCU. Seeing all of the different people on Shafer Court was a welcome change from the frat boys of UVA. Grad school and medical school are tough, but if there is anyway we can help out, give us a call. (As honors students we did a lot of PR as undergrads for VCU.)

**Tom and Kristi Franklin '93BS/H&S**

Congratulations on a nice issue of *Shafer Court Connections*. I particularly enjoyed the "Live Poets Society" (clever title) and "Small Cluster, Big Impact."

Although he left two years ago, I really feel strongly that "Live Poets" should have given credit to Dave Smith (whom Maurice Duke helped recruit) who played a major role in getting the Creative Writing program going.

Also, why no mention of Paule Marshall? I know she has already received a lot of publicity over the past two years, but not to mention her and her book *Daughters* in the VCU Writes sidebar strikes me as a major oversight.

These comments are not meant in any way to detract from the contributions of those featured, and I particularly like the way the article gives one a sense of how poets interact.

**Elske v P. Smith**

Thank you for mentioning both Paule Marshall (who retired in May) and Dave Smith. Marshall also received the Presidential Medallion at Commencement (page 7). In a further writer update, *Dennis Danvers' '89MFA/H&S second novel*, *Time After Time*, is in bookstores. Poet *Richard McCann '72BA/H&S* was on campus to read in November. *Sheri Reynolds' '92MFA/H&S first novel*, *Bitterroot Landing*, due in January, is already generating

interest in Europe. *Agyamah Kamau's '92MFA/H&S first novel* will appear in summer '95.

I would like to add my congratulation on your new *Shafer Court Connections*—my only regret, I did not receive your first issue. 'Tis probably still floating around in the mail. Perhaps Internet is the answer!

As a graduate of umpteen years ago, I especially enjoyed Reunion '94 in your current issue. Aged me a bit, but brought back many pleasant memories.

Best to you on your continued success.

**Farrell Stubbs Laughlin '43BS/B**

True to its name, the new alumni magazine gave me a renewed sense of connection to the university and reminded me how the VCU experience opened my life to a world of new possibilities and experiences.

In 1964, I timidly approached VCU. I was a youngish housewife with four small children and a high school diploma. The faculty, especially Thelma Biddle, my first teacher and advisor, and the students welcomed me to academic life. VCU provided me with a superb preparation for professional life, as well as friendships that endure to this day.

**Helen Eano Pecht '69BS '75MED/E**

*Helen Pecht also included information on her research in corrections and a presentation she made in 1991 to the European Prison Association. We plan to feature alumni in corrections and criminal justice in an upcoming issue.*

I just want to tell you how much I liked the latest issue. Good stories. Good layout. Good photographs. Really, it's just great.

**Nick Sharp**

I was glad to see the online article in *Shafer Court Connections*. In response to your request for ideas for alumni news, one possibility:

A number of graduates of Mass Communications (news editorial track) seem to be doing quite well. **Louise Seals '83MS/MC** is managing editor of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. **Mary Kress '74BS/MC** is managing editor of the *Florida Times-Union* in Jacksonville. **Carl Crothers '79BS/MC** is assistant managing editor of the *Tampa Tribune*. **Dan Shorter '78BS/MC** advanced to upper management of the *Palm Beach (Fla.) Post* last I heard. George Crutchfield would know if any other of his former students are now out front at other newspapers.

Anyway, enjoyed the magazine.

Can I access the VCU part of the Internet? How? I am on America Online. Thanks.

**McGregor McCance '91BS/MC**

*If you can reach Gopher Servers from your service, VCU is there. Or call your service help line and ask them. Each network service has different degrees and ways of access to the Net. VCU's Internet address: cabell.vcu.edu. VCU VIEWS on the World Wide Web: Http://opal.vcu.edu. Mass Comm graduates will find coverage of the school's alumni picnic and dance on page 29.*

*Letters, calls, email. Keep it coming! We may edit for length or clarity, and we'll correct your typos. Contact us at Shafer Court*

Connections; VCU Alumni Activities; PO Box 843044; Richmond, VA 23284-3044. Fax: (804) 828-0878. Email: [mercerc@cabell.vcu.edu](mailto:mercerc@cabell.vcu.edu). Phone: (804) VCU-ALUM (828-2586).



KEVIN SCHINDLER

## THANKS!

**Tina Robertson '86BFA/A** found enough drama right here in the Richmond area. She teaches at Monacan High School. Thanks to Tina and her students (l-r), Stuart Hollins, Sara Rudd and Blaine Ashworth for posing for the cover photo. **Kevin Schindler '89BFA/A** donated his skills to shoot the photo. **Andre Lucero '90BFA/A** created the glamorous aura with the fog machine. And the Science Museum of Virginia provided the location.



## The Way We Were

You might catch a whiff of RPI nostalgia from this photo. One more hint—it's Franklin Street. See page 32.

PHOTO: RICHMOND NEWSPAPERS, INC.

## PHOENIX SUNS STAR SHINES ON SIEGEL CENTER

It sounds like an unlikely team-up. After all, Charles Barkley is the power forward of the NBA's Phoenix Suns and one of the hottest names in the game. Stuart Siegel is a successful businessman, more famous for his savvy in the marketplace than for his free-throw stats.

But the NBA superstar and the CEO of S&K Famous Brands have joined forces to co-chair a \$10.25 million fundraising effort for VCU's planned Convocation and Recreation Center. The private, five-year campaign is expected to raise \$10.25 million toward the center's \$25 million construction and operating cost.

A strong VCU supporter and a member of the Board of Visitors, Siegel has already boosted this campaign with a planned gift valued at \$4 to \$7 million which will assure endowment income to run the Center. VCU says thanks by naming the Stuart C. Siegel Center after its chief benefactor. In October, VCU welcomed Siegel into the Founders' Society, which recognizes individual, corporate and foundation donors of \$100,000 or more.

Barkley, a three-year starter at Auburn University where VCU's Sonny Smith coached men's basketball from 1978-89, said, "In my visits to see Coach Smith, I have developed a strong affection for VCU and its athletic department. I am pleased to help this great university and its students."

The campaign announcement was a three-pointer. In addition to the Barkley-Siegel team-up, VCU announced a major agreement with the Pepsi Cola Company. Pepsi will become the sole soft drink supplier at VCU. The agreement is expected to generate \$8.5 million in revenue for the university, half of which will be allocated toward the center. (Say, "Pepsi, yo!")

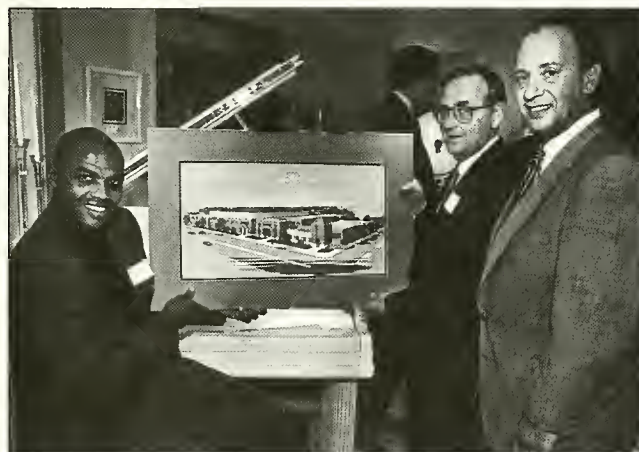
VCU's planned 176,000 square-foot Convocation and Recreation Center will be built at the northwest corner of Broad and Harrison Streets. Space is designed to be flexible, and will include recreation space for students. Student activities fees will fund half the cost.

## TAKING STOCK OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

More than one year ago, members of the VCU community agreed on a vision for our future and presented that agreement to our Board of Visitors in the form of "A Strategic Plan for the Future of Virginia Commonwealth University." Since that time, we have stepped up to the challenge of implementing our plan.

The major story in strategic planning this year has been organizational. We established nine interdisciplinary centers. We merged two schools to create a new School of Medicine. We eliminated the School of Community and Public Affairs and located departments to other areas. We signed an unprecedented Memorandum of Understanding with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to establish a School of Engineering at VCU. We are in the middle of an extensive administrative review process with a goal to cut 15 percent of our administrative expenses. And we have hired a new vice provost for information technology.

Our future strategic success will be, in many respects, more challenging. For example, incorporating the recommendations of the administrative review process lies ahead as does implementing our academic priorities—those programs that we want to strengthen, reduce, or eliminate. The Board of Visitors recently approved the recommendations of the Faculty Roles and Rewards Committee; now these must be put in place. We also face fundamental questions surrounding enrollment management, specifically who we are going to admit and how we are going to retain them. In the area of capital planning, we must make decisions about off-campus expansion. And, we must evaluate our internal resources and fund-raising priorities to ensure that the resources are there to support our plan.



**Power Starters.** Charles Barkley, Dr. Trani and Stuart Siegel open the campaign for VCU's convocation and recreation center.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH A. MAHONEY.

Our credibility as an institution is at stake in how well we succeed with our strategic plan. A lot of groups—not the least of them our alumni—are watching us and, I might add, wishing us well. That interest signifies to me just how important this University is to the community and the Commonwealth. In many respects, our success is their gain.

Our strategic plan also answers the call of the General Assembly and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for restructuring plans. In fact, we are ahead of the pack in this regard. Not only was our plan completed a year before such restructuring plans were due, but its initiatives respond to all the issues of importance to Virginia's political leadership: the future deployment of the faculty, the effectiveness of academic programs, cost containment, and preparing for enrollment increases.

Most importantly, our plan is not simply a response to revenue downturns or state priorities. It is our blueprint for becoming a leader among urban universities in the country. We believe that vision is essential to the delivery and quality of higher education in Virginia.

EUGENE P. TRANI  
PRESIDENT



## THE MECHANICS OF GROWTH: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING SELECTS SITE

The proposed School of Engineering has moved toward actualization in recent months. The Board of Visitors has approved a site for the 80,000 square-foot facility and submitted a proposal to the State Council of High Education (SCHEV) for review.

The school is scheduled to open in the fall of 1996, with its first students graduating in 2000. The building will be on the north side of Cary Street between Pine and Belvidere Streets. The \$20 million construction and start-up costs will be privately funded, but the school will require about \$2 million in state support annually.

The Board of Visitors' 195-page proposal to SCHEV outlines the school's academic and organizational structure. McGee says the school will offer programs in electrical, chemical, mechanical and biomedical engineering. The eight-year-old Commonwealth graduate program in engineering—telecourses offered together with Virginia Tech, UVa and Old Dominion University—also will become part of the proposed new school.

## NOBEL PRIZE WINNER HAS TIES TO VCU

One of this year's Nobel Prize winners in Medicine, Dr. Martin Rodbell, has ties to VCU's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, where he is a visiting lecturer each spring.

Rodbell, recently retired from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at Research Triangle Park, NC, will split the Nobel Prize with Dr. Alfred G. Gilman of the Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The two researchers discovered proteins that are paramount in helping scientists understand diseases that affect tens of thousands of people worldwide. The proteins carry messages from

hormones on the outside of the cell to the inside of the cell, where they trigger a series of chemical and biological reactions.

Rodbell's VCU connection is the result of his friendship with Dr. George Kunos, chairman of the pharmacology and toxicology department. Rodbell met most recently with VCU graduate students and faculty in March.



ERIC NORBOM

## DISTINGUISHED LEADER

VCU President Eugene Trani has received the National Association for Community Leadership (NACL) 1994 Distinguished Leadership Award for his exemplary leadership in the Richmond community and nationally. The award brings national recognition to the university as well, highlighting the success of Dr. Trani's efforts to make VCU the model of the new urban university. In four years at VCU, Trani has built numerous partnerships with VCU's community, not only in Richmond and Virginia, but worldwide.

## NEW VICE PROVOST FOR TECHNOLOGY

VCU's goal to make the "virtual university" a reality has been bolstered by the appointment of Arthur S. Gloster II as vice provost of the Office of Information Technology, a new position at the university. A 1974 graduate of Virginia Tech, Gloster joins VCU from California Polytechnic State University in California.

"Dr. Gloster's arrival signals a dramatic move in the way

students, staff and faculty will access information through computers," says Dr. Grace Harris, VCU's provost and vice president for academic affairs. As he did at Cal Poly, Gloster will help faculty here use technology to integrate video, animation, live interviews and text into lectures. VCU students will have more access to information technologies.

## MASS COMM NAMES INTERIM DIRECTOR

Joyce Wise Dodd has been named interim director of the School of Mass Communications while the school reopens a national search for a permanent director. Dodd's focus is on curricular reform, alumni relations and strategic planning.

For the past two years, Dodd has been executive producer of *Crosstalk*, a VCU public affairs program broadcast on Richmond's FOX-TV affiliate.

She also worked as a moderator, scriptwriter, editor and narrator for special projects produced by Richmond public television.

## THEY CAME, THEY CARED, THEY VOLUNTEERED

Thirty-six VCU students have responded to President Clinton's calls for community service, joining thousands of students nationwide in AmeriCorps. Volunteers work with community agencies in exchange for a small stipend and educational grant. VCU students are with schools and clinics in Richmond.

## THE BEST OF THE CLASS

Once again, VCU's schools have been recognized by *U. S. News & World Report* as outstanding. In the national magazine's annual graduate program ranking, three VCU schools and one major department placed in the top 25



## KICK UP YOUR HEELS!

The first of VCU's major dance productions has left the stage, but the Department of Dance and Choreography still has a hot foot. Stellar performances featuring students, faculty and visiting artists are slated for winter and early spring.

Then comes the big transition, when the former Lee Art Theater on Grace Street is renovated as the dance department's new home. "It's going to be very dancer-friendly," says Chris Burnside, department chairman. "It's being designed to be used for dance production, and you don't see many theaters like that in the country." The move is planned for September.

The season began in rip-roaring fashion with National Endowment for the Arts fellowship artist Doug Varone and his eight-member dance company. Varone is wrapping up his three-year residency with the dance department, where he team-taught master classes with faculty. Upcoming dance performances include fall senior projects on December 10-11; a concert by Ron Brown on January 28; annual student/faculty concerts, March 3-5; a lecture and demonstration by Sally Nash on April 8; and spring senior projects on April 22-23. For information or tickets,

in the nation. The Master of Fine Arts program in the School of the Arts ranked 25th. The School of Pharmacy ranked 10th, tying four other schools, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The School of Dentistry tied with Harvard University at 13th. The Department of Health Administration ranked ninth, above Yale and Duke Universities.

The annual rankings are the results of polls of deans and senior faculty from universities across the United States. Each school was rated according to reputation for scholarship, curriculum and the quality of faculty and graduate students.

### THREE ALUMNI JOIN VCU BOARD

Four new members—three of them alumni of the university—have been named to the university's Board of Visitors by Gov.

George Felix Allen Jr.

**Dr. Percy Wootton '57 '60HS/M**, of Richmond, is an alumnus of VCU and Lynchburg College; **Dr. David Vaughan '73M**, of Lynchburg, is a member of the Medical School Advisory Council and a physician with First Colony Life Insurance; **Edward Flippen '65BS/B**, of Richmond, is an attorney with Mays and Valentine. Richmond ophthalmologist **Dr. Lindley Smith** is a graduate of Meharry College School of Medicine.

### NOVELIST JOINS ENGLISH FACULTY

Marita Golden, novelist and advocate of African-American literary scholarship, has joined the faculty of the English department at VCU, filling the position left by retiring writer Paule Marshall.

"It's a nice symmetry that I am the one taking her place because I studied fiction under her in New York," Golden told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Golden has published five books, including the autobiographical *Migrations of the Heart* and *Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues: Black Women Writers on Love, Men and Sex*, a collection of 15



### COMPASSIONATE AND EFFECTIVE

Former dean of the School of Social Work and VCU's first woman vice president died August 10 in Richmond at 73. Elaine Zipes Rothenberg joined the social work faculty of Richmond Professional Institute in 1960. She was director of field work, director of admissions and then assistant dean of the school before she became dean in 1972. In 1982, she was named university professor and director of university self-study. She retired in 1988 as vice president for academic affairs.

"She tied the community to the school and was one of the first deans in the university to use a community advisory board," said **Dr. Grace Harris '60MSW/SW**, VCU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, who succeeded Rothenberg as dean. "Elaine built VCU's School of Social Work into one of national renown."

Rothenberg's commitment to her profession was driven by compassion for those it served. She worked to build community and government support for the profession and to set national standards for social work education. A colleague commented that she "left her mark on every school in the country." She served on review committees for the Institutes of Mental Health from 1981 until her recent illness.

Rothenberg was presented with VCU's Presidential Medallion at her retirement, and an award for the outstanding student in the School of Social Work is named in her honor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES, JAMES BRANCH CABELL LIBRARY



### "A TEACHER OF TEACHERS"

Dr. Robert Janke, professor emeritus of theatre and director of the speech and communication program in the Department of Theatre, died July 27.

Janke was director of the program from 1976 until his retirement in 1991. "He came to us with quite a deal of experience, especially in business," said Richard Newdick, chairman of the Department of Theatre. "He was very efficient, very patient with students and adjunct faculty. In essence, he was a teacher of teachers."

Theatre business manager Chuck Dierkus says, "His students just loved him. He worked very hard for them. And he was fun to be around." Dierkus had a windowless basement office like Janke's and next to it. "Janke used to call me from home on rainy days and ask me to shut his window so it wouldn't rain on his desk," he recalls with a chuckle.

Janke was president of the Virginia Speech Communication Association from 1980 until 1982. After leaving VCU, he co-authored a book, *Talk Yourself Up!* and published numerous articles for scholarly journals.

The family suggests memorial gifts be made to the Department of Theatre Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 842524, 922 Park Ave., Richmond, VA 23284-2524.



### STAGE PRESENCE

C. Thomas Holloway '56BFA/A, professor emeritus and former chairman of the Department of Theatre, died Sept. 24 in Richmond. Holloway joined the faculty at Richmond Professional Institute in 1957 and served as chairman from 1983 until his retirement in 1989.

"His enthusiasm for theater education inspired many students to become outstanding drama teachers in Virginia," says Richard Newdick, who succeeded Holloway as department chairman. Holloway directed the university's program in theater education.

Karen Osbey, senior secretary for the department, adds that Holloway influenced "every actor in town—in fact, just about anybody who was ever an alum." **Matthew Costello '77BFA/A** remembers Holloway "as an excellent administrator and leader who spearheaded expansion, a warm, spirited man whose capacity for friendship transcended the professor/student relationship."

Even alumni from outside the department remember Holloway as Grand Marshall at commencement ceremonies—a performance with a 21-year run. Holloway's warmth reached out to friends throughout the university, from art school Dean Murry DePillars to Ted Pellikan in buildings and grounds.

Outside the university, Holloway acted in a number of plays for the Richmond Children's Theatre and Barksdale Theatre and served on the Children's Theatre advisory board for eight years.

Holloway's family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Theatre VCU Scholarship Fund, PO Box 842524, Richmond, VA 23284-2524.

COURTESY OF PHYLLIS HOLLOWAY



essays by black female authors.

Golden is the founder and president of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation, a national organization that provides awards for young African-American writers.

## PAPER PRAYERS OPENS ART SEASON

What do Garth Brooks, Mr. Rogers and Julie Harris have in common with students from Open High and St. Catherine's school? All of them responded to a call for art for an AIDS-related exhibit at VCU's Anderson Gallery. *Paper Prayers* is based on an Asian tradition of hanging vertical strips of paper as prayers to heal the sick. In rotation, every piece will be displayed, and then sold for \$25 to benefit the Richmond AIDS Ministry. *Paper Prayers* runs through December 23. A special reception marked World AIDS Day on December 1.

Coming up in January is *Repicturing Abstraction*, which explores the blurring of boundaries between abstract and representational work in late twentieth-century abstract art. The 20 artists are national and regional, established and emerging, and include VCU faculty member Javier Tapia from Peru. Work on exhibit at the Anderson Gallery examines *The Politics of Space*. The collaborative exhibit opens simultaneously with other themes at the Virginia Museum—*Faux Gesture*; 1708 Gallery—*Second Nature*; and University of Richmond's Marsh Gallery—*The Abducted Image*. The show runs January 20-March 5.

The Anderson Gallery is at 907 1/2 West Franklin Street; (804) 828-1522. (Don't forget the Gallery's Holiday Art Market through December 23.)

## WARRIOR MARKS

Two hundred-twenty students, faculty and people from the community came to VCU for a screening of *Warrior Marks*, Alice Walker's film about ritual female genital mutilation. An international panel put FGM in the



*Paper Prayers* benefits people with AIDS at the Anderson Gallery through December 23.

context of worldwide "patriarchal wounds" and systemic oppression of women.

Somalian Dr. Asha Mohamud from the Center for Population Options in Washington said that some of the chronic health problems result from unhygienic practice. Ironically, one of the

rationales for FGM is that "women must remain spiritually clean."

The panel made it clear that this argument is indefensible. Dr. Amina Wadud-Mushin, of philosophy and religious studies at VCU, emphasized that there is no

scriptural justification of the practice in any religious tradition; it is a patriarchal *cultural* practice.

VCU's Dr. Njeri Jackson warned against Western arrogance in cross-cultural critiques. "These women who agree to infibulation must not be seen as dupes. They are courageous survivors." Still, even though challenging FGM has terrible consequences for them, women from these cultures who initiated resistance to it.

The film and discussion had a strong impact on the audience—mostly women, but some men as well. One woman said, "It was difficult watching [this] film through my Western eyes and not being opinionated about it, but the statistics about the number of cases of female genital mutilation which occur each year in the United States are alarming."

Richmond's chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women and the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia brought the film, supported by VCU and the African American Alumni Council.

# LIVE AT VCU



GEORGE DE VINCENT

"On stage... She was an invention conjured out of singular words strung together like pearls. If there was any feeling she would die fighting for, it was this."

From *And Do Remember Me* (1992) by **MARITA GOLDEN**, nationally known novelist and new faculty member in creative writing



MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES, VCU

"The tinderbox of nationalist conflict is a potential problem in Russia. The positives are that if you're careful, if you're patient—and if you recognize that it will be two steps forward and one back for a while—there are certainly areas in Russia that are worth investing in, many of them not in and around Moscow."

**LARRY EAGLEBURGER**, former U.S. Secretary of State, speaking at the School of Business International Forum on "Doing Business in Russia and the Newly Independent States," in October





## NEW DEAN FOR MEDICINE

On July 14, the Board of Visitors approved the appointment of **Dr. Hermes Kontos '62HS '67PhD/M** as the new dean of the School of Medicine. After a national search had produced a field of 141 highly qualified applicants, the committee unanimously recommended Dr. Kontos. He was interim dean last year, overseeing the merger of the School of Basic Health Sciences with the School of Medicine. Dr. John E. Jones, vice president for health sciences, says, "No better person could have been chosen for this significant responsibility."

Kontos first came to MCV in 1960 for his residency and joined the faculty in 1964. From 1986-91, he chaired the Division of Cardiology and then was interim chairman in pathology and internal medicine. Kontos continues intensive research into brain damage related to strokes, high blood pressure and head trauma. Two major awards to support his work are a \$1.5 million MERIT (unsolicited) grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute in 1986 and last year's seven-year Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from NIH. Kontos has published extensively and served on the editorial boards of major journals.

## PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLIONS

At Commencement in May, President Trani awarded the university's Presidential Medallion on two faculty members. Internationally known novelist Paule Marshall, retiring professor of English, had also won a MacArthur Award in 1993 and was chosen

VCU's Distinguished Scholar for 1994.

Also honored was **Dr. John Legerwood Patterson Jr. '39 '41HS/M**, professor of internal medicine, who founded the Division of Cardiopulmonary Laboratories and Research on the MCV Campus. His research on the genesis of breath sounds and quantitative analysis led to NASA building an acoustic chamber in Sanger Hall for his work.



## VCU GOES NORTH

In mid-November, VCU's Board of Visitors approved a long-range plan for the university to develop a stretch of Broad St. between Belvidere and Harrison Streets. VCU would work with the City of Richmond to develop a multiuse tree-lined boulevard. Sketches envision a VCU "gateway"

building—possibly a student services center—at the corner of Broad and Shafer Streets. The Siegel Convocation Center (page 3) is already in the works for the corner of Broad and Harrison.

"Going North" would rehabilitate a run-down section of the city and avoid disrupting a neighborhood—a problem with a previous plan to expand on the south side of campus into Oregon Hill.

## VCU PROFESSOR NEW PRESIDENT OF APA

Robert Resnick PhD begins his year as president of the 100,000 member American Psychological Association in February. Resnick is chairman of the Division of Clinical Psychology and directs the university's Attention Deficit Disorders Clinic, which he founded in 1984.



**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS**, internationally known choreographer and dance company in residence at VCU in September



MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES, VCU

"Nothing can be as burdensome as thought. Nothing provides such an escape from thought as recourse to...ideology."

**JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH**, Paul M. Warburg Professor of Economics Emeritus at Harvard University, author and economic advisor to presidents from Roosevelt to Clinton, VCU Commencement Address May 17

NAME  
YOUR  
SPORT  
AND  
NAME  
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SPOT.  
WHEREVER  
THEY  
ARE  
NOW,  
VCU  
ATHLETES  
ARE...

*In 10 years with the NBA,  
Gerald Henderson played on  
championship teams with the  
Celtics and the Detroit Pistons.*



VCU SPORTS INFORMATION FILE PHOTO



VCU SPORTS INFORMATION FILE PHOTO

*Ren Watson, VCU's premier shot-blocker,  
is now a crime-stopper with the VCU Police.*



*Chris Brower dribbled his way  
to the banks of the Neva River  
in St. Petersburg, Russia.*



Swing open the door to the Franklin Street Gym and plunge again into the familiar sting of chlorine-filled air. Shouts, yells and thumps bounce off tiled walls like echoes from the past. For hundreds of VCU alumni-athletes, these are the humid halls of home.

Some of them have gone on to compete professionally, like **\*Gerald Henderson**, a 10-year National Basketball Association veteran. Henderson always looked forward to the postseason. "During playoff time the excitement heightens and intensity rises—most of all in the final series," he says. He should know. He played for the 1980-81 and 1983-84 championship Boston Celtics and also with the 1989-90 championship Detroit Pistons when they beat the Portland Trailblazers.

When he left pro basketball, Henderson opened All State Ambulance Inc. in Philadelphia, where he works every day. And his retirement from professional athletics is absolute. "I decided to get out of professional sports to watch my kids grow up." Today, his sporting life is limited to leisurely golf and busing his children to games on the weekend.

One of Henderson's teammates, **\*Lorenza "Ren" Watson**, VCU's premier shot blocker, is now a crime stopper with the VCU police. Watson's 391 blocked shots is a school record not likely to fall. Yet despite holding the shot blocking and career rebounding records, Watson cherishes his teammates even more. "I enjoyed making new friends—Gerald Henderson, **Danny Kottak '82BS/B**, **\*Edmund Sherod** and **Monty Knight '82BS/B**."

Perhaps it was special, a dream team. Henderson remembers Watson warmly. "I'd never played with a talent like his—a shot blocker, an unselfish, team-oriented player. I think that's the kind of understanding and respect everyone on that team had for one another."

**Chris Brower '93BA/H&S** played shooting-guard for Coach Sonny Smith. His consistent game and adventurous

spirit took him to St. Petersburg, Russia. "The St. Petersburg club president called VCU and asked if any Americans would be interested in playing for him," Brower remembers. Russians **Eugene Kissourine** and **Konstantin Pepeliaev** had come to VCU from the same team. "Just by talking to them I wanted to go," Brower says. (Later, Kissourine led the Russian national team against the NBA Dream Team II, scoring a team high of 18 points against the likes of Shaquille O'Neal.)

A double major in German and political science, Brower was already known for his proficiency in languages (then four) and his 3-point shot (175, a Rams' career record). He added to both repertoires. He learned Russian and now plays point guard. "I left America speaking no Russian. When you have no one to speak English with, you learn the native language pretty fast."

The coach of the Svellana team, Vyacheslav Borodin, was impressed by Brower's ability to learn a new culture. In a *Moscow Times* article, Borodin com-

mented, "He has no hang-ups. And because he develops his language skills, he understands our life. How many Americans have been to Volgograd and seen the statue to the motherland, to Lake Baikal, or to Yekaterinburg and seen the place where the Tsar was shot?"

Even though Brower spent most of his time on the court, the political scientist in him sized up the new Russian politics. "Russia's democracy isn't democracy at all. No matter how much they play it up for the Western media it's still the same communist bureaucracy," in his opinion. "It's the communist infrastructure with new thinking. But they deal with problems the same way the communists did."

For life after basketball, Brower is considering graduate school. "I thought about coming back and getting a master's in business," Brower says. "All the markets are open over there. Or I may be a professor or teacher." For now, he is trying out coaching at Columbus College in Georgia.



Not onion domes but London Towers claimed **Martin Henlan '90BS/B**. That's the English team he's playing for this year, having played on nine championship teams and on the English national teams for two Olympic tournaments and for European tournaments. "I played against Magic Johnson—well, played with him, really," Henlan, who came to VCU from Birmingham, England didn't expect to go home. ("I miss the weather in beautiful Virginia.")

For a guy who started out with a



*Martin Henlan took American basketball home to England and plays for the London Towers.*

sensible plan to get a business degree and play basketball on the side, the ball has moved down court fast. Henlan has a growing broadcasting career as well. When European cable broadcast the NBA playoffs this year, Henlan did home studio commentary—translating Marv Albert into English.

"We try to relate it to our own home sports, like soccer, cricket and rugby football. Our viewers just don't think of people of this size doing what they do. You don't get seven-foot soccer players." (Hence, "London Towers.") Henlan says there's been a "basketball explosion," especially in Europe, spreading to

England. "Of course," he says ruefully, "it's an NBA explosion. They know Michael Jordan, not Martin Henlan." Still, NBA fervor generates lots of interest and questions.

Henlan is VCU's ambassador of basketball. He still wears his letterman's jacket everywhere. "It's probably the best known jacket in England," he smiles. "My experiences at VCU have helped me very well," he continues. "In college sports, you're in the spotlight. I learned to deal with the pressure of deadlines doing college work. And I was on my own in a foreign country." The discipline is important; "it's very different, playing basketball to go to school and playing to pay the mortgage."

"When you're in school," Henlan reflects, "you think life is going to be a certain way. Now I'm more interested in the quality of life—staying close with friends and family and doing something I want to do. If I can't be happy today, it doesn't matter if I have money in the bank tomorrow."



VCU's tennis teams draw heavily from European and South American students. "At this level, none of the Europeans can go to school and play competition," explains women's coach Eva Bard (who is French herself). "They would have to choose between playing and university. So 99 percent of foreign players come to the United States, where they can find very strong competition and excellent academics."

Men's coach Paul Kostin has led the team to three Metro Conference championships in a row, and they are ranked 25th in the country. "Coaches get too much credit," he demurs. "It comes down to the student athlete himself." Like **Fredrik Eliasson '94BS/B**, an Academic All-American who also holds postgraduate awards from Metro, NCAA and the International Tennis Association. "One of the best student-athletes who's ever been here," Kostin says.

In seven years Bard has built VCU Women's Tennis from scratch to second rank in the Metro Conference, third in the region. "This fall is the first time we have a pre-season national ranking (50th out of 300 teams)—we're expected to do well," Bard says. And they are playing a tough Division I schedule. When the women's team plays in California at spring break, they'll be up against two of the best teams in the country, Pepperdine College (in the top ten) and U. of Oklahoma (among the top 25).

Bard is especially proud of the discipline and brutal hard work of student-athletes on both the men's and women's teams. Forget the stereotype. "I don't think anyone has any clue how hard these students work, how many hours in the day don't exist for them. Practice, read, go to class, travel, compete, get hurt—and try to have some fun. They are extremely disciplined and motivated." Kostin adds, "You want to develop good human beings, number one. An ingredient is winning. We want them to be able to take charge in real life, after tennis and school."

And so they have. Of recent graduates, **Luciano D'Andrea '93BS/B** played on the international circuit for a year before going home to Brazil to teach English. **Isidro Lledo** is a tennis pro in Eppelheim, Germany. Richmond native **Raj Bonifacius '93BS/B** followed his



*Now coaching in Tampa, Lisa Kipple Beamer found sports gold in Ireland, playing for the IBA (Irish Basketball Association), doing sports broadcasting and writing, and coaching an Irish men's college team.*



# SPORTS BITES

## CONFERENCE CALL

With football schools pulling out of the Metro League, VCU, Virginia Tech, UNC Charlotte and South Florida will be shut out of the huddle by fall 1996. The three mid-Atlantic schools have been invited to join the Colonial Athletic Association (schools in Virginia and North Carolina like James Madison and Old Dominion) and the Atlantic 10 (eastern schools from George Washington in D.C. to U. Mass in Boston). Traditional rivalries and easier traveling within the CAA weigh in against stronger competitors in the Atlantic 10. VCU should have a decision by January 1, 1995.

## HOME COURT ADVANTAGE?

"I have a lot of special feelings for Richmond but I won't be thinking of that once the game begins." VCU's **David Hobbs '72 BS/E** (right) returns to his second hometown to coach Alabama's Crimson Tide against the Rams on December 3. "Without question becoming head coach at Alabama is the most exciting thing for me professionally," says Hobbs. In his first two seasons at Alabama, Hobbs compiled a 36-23 record.



## AMBASSADOR OF BASKETBALL

When European cable broadcast the NBA playoffs this year, British native **Martin Henlan '90BS/B** did home studio commentary in London—translating Marv Albert into English. "We try to explain the terms and bring them up to speed. Basketball is about ten times faster than traditional British sports. We English tend to do things slowly," he laughs. Perhaps. Henlan's broadcasting gigs already include commercials for British Rail and 7-Up.

## TENNIS TEAMWORK

For a relatively young program, VCU tennis teams have steadily moved up in the rankings, cheered and disciplined by two coaches named Metro Conference Coaches of the Year in 1993. Under Paul Kostin (also Metro Coach for 1994), VCU Men's Tennis rose meteorically to national quality and won Metro League Conference titles the past three years. VCU hosts men's Metro championships next spring. Eva Bard has led VCU Women's Tennis from a very small Division III Level to a national ranking of 50th. "We're aiming for 25," she smiles.

## IS THERE A DOCTOR ON THE COURT?

Throw your back out trying to outdo your kid on the ball court? Chester, Virginia, residents now have a place to go for help. Sports Medicine in Chester, a satellite facility of the university's MCV Hospitals, has opened.

The 7,500 square-foot center houses a full range of sports medicine care including on-site x-ray and laboratory testing, comprehensive injury evaluation by orthopedic surgeons, cardiovascular conditioning equipment and rehabilitation therapy.

For more information on Sports Medicine in Chester, call (804) 796-4300.

Icelandic girlfriend to Reykjavik, where he has opened a tennis academy and is working on his MBA. **Rachel Gale '92BS/E** is assistant tennis pro at Raintree Swim and Racquet Club in Richmond.



Coaching appealed to **Lisa Kipple Beamer '86BS/E**, who played forward for VCU's women's basketball 1981-85. Now she's assistant coach for the University of Tampa women's basketball team.

Before joining the staff in Tampa, Beamer spent a year playing basketball in Ireland. "I played in Ireland in 1985-86, right out of school," Beamer says. "It

makes you appreciate where you live. You take a lot for granted here in America. Several girls had no electricity, one had no running water. A lot of people don't have cars; they used their feet or bikes for transportation."

While playing for the Atlantis team of the Irish Basketball Association, Beamer took advantage of every opportunity that presented itself. She wrote newspaper articles, worked radio shows and even coached a boys' college basketball squad. "The college coach quit so they hired me," Beamer says, laughing as she recalls her year in Limerick, Ireland. "We did a lot of new things. They were more receptive to a female coach than an

American male team would be. That's why I'm still open to coaching for men."

One of the new things Beamer had to do was curb the team's drinking. "We limited pub stops to the trip home—they used to stop at pubs on the way to the game and on the way home."

By the luck of the Irish, Beamer's year in Ireland was the first year the National Football League did broadcasts there. No one was familiar with the American football teams, or even the basic rules of the game. As an American athlete, Beamer quickly found herself an expert radio analyst of American football.

More luck, American-style. "The games were tape-delayed and broadcast

on Thursday, with my preview on Wednesday night. They didn't know I called my brother every Monday and he told me everything that happened that Sunday in the NFL. Only one girl on my team knew."

As a coach, especially for women, Beamer emphasizes the student in student athlete. "A lot of them know I played overseas," Beamer says. "I tell them the chances of going over there are slim. I tell them they need to get an education." Even though most of her athletes would like to play in Europe like their coach did, they will only follow her so far. "None of them want to be coaches," Beamer says, laughing again.

Atlanta is a ways from Cary Street Field. But two VCU hockey players are still competing together in the Georgia capital. **Kristen Horton '92BS/MC** left Richmond to work as an intern in the Metro Conference's communications office. She was working in a restaurant when she heard about a field hockey league organized by her former teammate **Kelly Brown '90BFA/A**. Brown, an active member of the Georgia Field Hockey Association, says the big difference between hockey in Atlanta and in Richmond is the number of men participating. "Throughout the world it's a male-dominated sport. We have fifty-fifty, men and women," Brown says. "Granted all the men are foreigners, but it's fifty-fifty."

This summer Horton and Brown teamed up at work in the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation office. Brown went south to get her master's degree in sports administration at Georgia State University and now does promotions for the parks and recreation department. This fall Horton began graduate work in sports administration at Georgia State where she was awarded a scholarship as academic advisor for student athletes. She is also coaching volleyball, basketball and softball at Yeshiva High School.

"I didn't think I'd have the chance to coach since I didn't have the right background," Horton says. "I like being involved at both the collegiate and high school levels."

Horton has one particularly fond

memory from her own collegiate play. "We beat Duke on their parents' weekend," Horton remembers. "Their parents were boisterous and obnoxious, Duke was nationally ranked—and we beat them 3-1."

Outside of coaching, the disparity in professional opportunities for collegiate female athletes and their male counterparts is obvious. In America, professional athletics is mostly a man's world. Even so, many of VCU's women athletes have made a seamless transition from undergraduate sports to professional life.

"I think it is unfortunate there's not a professional pool for women. Men at least have the opportunity," says Horton. "I think most girls look at it differently than boys," she continues. "Girls say, 'I'm not counting on this for my livelihood.' A lot of women athletes know they don't have sports to fall back on."

Lisa Beamer concurs and sees education as a hallmark of the women's collegiate athletic experience. "I think it is kind of sad that women have to go overseas to play," Beamer says. She adds, "The positive side is, that's why female athletes are good students. It's sad though that girls give their whole life to a sport and it just ends."

But women do take their athletic experience away from the playing field. Horton values her athletics and book education equally. "Women learn to handle disappointment, victory, ups and downs," she insists. "It builds character and we take it with us to the work force."

**George "Jerry" Stone III '66BS/E**, currently assistant commissioner for the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), has worked every angle in athletics. Stone played basketball for Richmond Professional Institute in 1962-63. Graduating with a degree in health and physical education, he taught science and physical education for 19 years at Henrico County Schools. He also coached baseball, basketball and football for the school system. "I definitely enjoyed 19 years of education," Stone says enthusiastically. "Teaching those kids was challenging and exciting."

After leaving Henrico schools, Stone joined the Professional Golf Association (PGA) as tournament director. "Obviously, spending two years traveling the world with top golf athletes is wonderful."

From the PGA, Stone moved in to his current slot at the CAA. Stone's main responsibility in the CAA, home for VCU rivals Old Dominion and University of Richmond, is marketing and promoting. Since joining the CAA he signed Contel Cellular as the sponsor to the conference basketball tip-off banquet. Definitely a three-point shot.

And even though Stone found a comfortable job in an administrative office, he still breaks a sweat working in the business. He officiates Division II and III men's basketball, usually in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Stone also umpires local softball games.



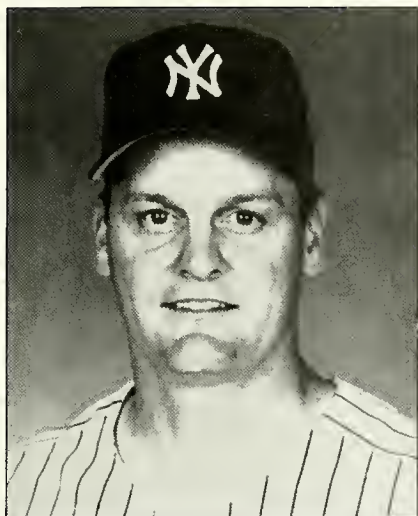
**\*James Austin**, the first VCU baseball player to play in a major league game (1991 Milwaukee Brewers), sat out this season, recuperating at home in Richmond from a shoulder injury at New York Yankees' spring training. Chances are he'll be back in a Yankee uniform next season. "I'm 99 percent sure," Austin says. "They told me they'd like me back and more than likely I will go."



*Wanderlust hit late for George "Jerry" Stone III. After 19 years coaching at a Henrico high school, he took a two-year world tour as tournament director for the Professional Golf Association.*







James Austin joined the Milwaukee Brewers in 1991, the first VCU ball player to go "to the show." Austin was with the Yankees during 1994 Spring Training.

After playing professional ball for 10 years, Austin still sees a number of his old Ram teammates. "It's kind of surprising. I thought after school everyone would go their own way —back home or whatever. But a lot of them stayed right here in Richmond." One of Austin's classmates stayed with him—his wife, **Madelene Gordon, '88BS/H&S.**



Two guys who help put golf on a par with other VCU sports are **Jerry Wood '92BS/B** and **Mike Grant '92BS/E.** Between golf and classwork, Grant remembers his collegiate career was so busy "it seems like a blur," Grant says. Wood maintains connections with VCU, helping raise funds for brain tumor research at the Massey Cancer Center on the MCV Campus.

When they played for VCU, they competed in tournaments all across the

Southeast, and they are still competitive. Wood, former captain of VCU's golf team, won the AMF Signet Open in Richmond this summer. The highlight of Grant's year was qualifying for the U.S. Open.

Winning a spot in the Open is a feat in itself. "From here you go through a local qualifying round of 88 guys competing for 11 spots; then there is a sectional qualifying with 44 guys competing for three spots," Grant says. He missed the cut in the Open scoring 80 and 76, but he plans to try again next year.

Contacts through golf coach Jack Bell helped Grant get his professional career started. Now Grant is the pro at Flossmore Country Club in Chicago, where his responsibilities range from running tournaments to managing the pro shop.



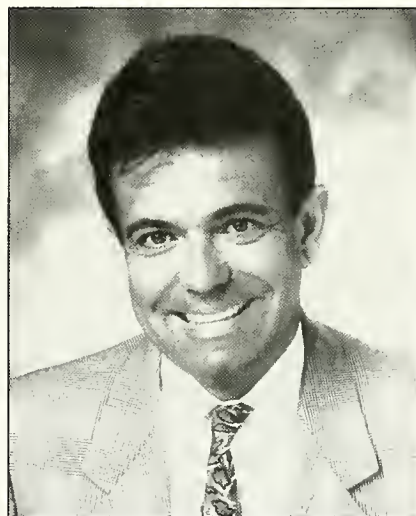
VCU football? Let's just say that **Tom Guthrie '72BFA/A** has never been a bigger Rams fan—make that L.A. Rams. As entertainment coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams, Guthrie chooses the game time music, as well as pre-game and half-time shows. He also markets and promotes the Rams cheerleader and dance squad.

Like many fellow arts grads, Guthrie has to tackle funding. "You have to find sponsors," he says. "The entertainment operates separately from the team so we have to create our own budget." Guthrie is creative indeed. For the past past three years, that budget has taken his entertainment troupe to Europe, Japan and throughout Southern California.

"We have a 43-member cheer squad, 16 on the stunt squad, the world

champion baton tosser and a 20-piece band," Guthrie says. He adds that the dance squad is highly competitive— 350 women auditioned for the group in June. None of the spots on the squad are guaranteed. Even last year's dancers had to audition again.

VCU Ram athletes have picked up the ball and run with it—across America and around the world. The joy and discipline of their sports has shaped their lives, helping them to finish college and build professional success. And their springboard off campus was musty Franklin Street Gym.

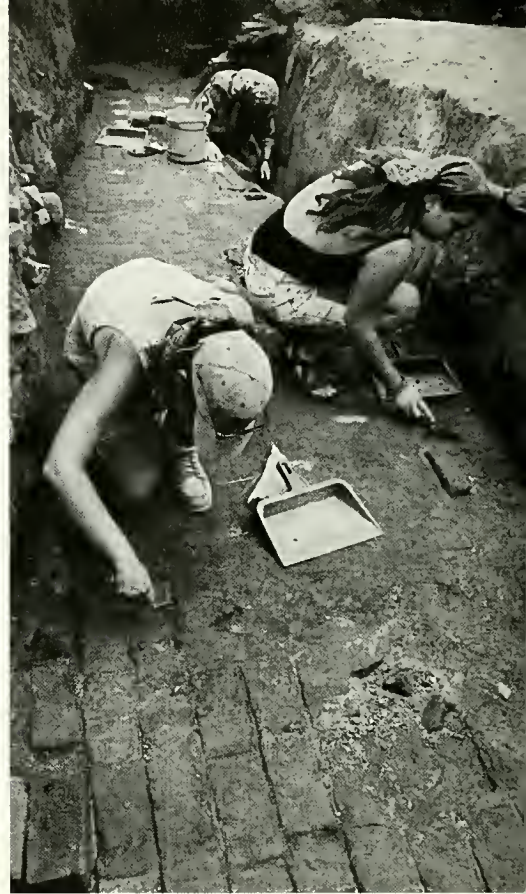


Tom Guthrie is the only VCU alumnus in football, entertainment coordinator with the Rams—the L.A. Rams, that is.

\*VCU SPORTS HALL OF FAME

JIM JOHNS IS A RAMS FAN AND ASSISTANT BUREAU CHIEF WITH VCU'S CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE.

*Dig it. The ARC team sifts the sands of time and numbers the shards in ARC's bright new workroom. Dan Mouer (cap) holds Open House for guests at Curles Plantation in July.*



# Archaeological Research Center C

# NEW DIGS

BY LINDA LIVENGOOD '90BS/MC

Who has the better understanding of a people and their culture—the historian who reads a diary or the archaeologist who unearths the society's remains? “When you’re standing knee-deep in someone’s privy, you get a pretty intimate understanding of their lives.”

For **Dr. L. Daniel Mouer '75BS/H&S**, an associate director of VCU's Archaeological Research Center (ARC), the debate with the historian ends there. He believes the knowledge gleaned from such unsavory sites far outweighs any unpleasant aspects of the task. “We’ve learned a lot from the privies of the early 18th and 19th centuries. That’s where people dumped their trash, and where we recover a lot of our artifacts.”

Mouer explains, “We don’t just have an intuitive connection with the cultures we research. Studying artifacts gives a tangible link with people. It’s the combination of the written record and material evidence that makes archaeology so useful. We’re there to put the flesh on the bones.”





# celebrates 25 Years and New Quarters

One of the center's major sites is the Curles Plantation about 15 miles east of Richmond, which existed from around 1613 until the Civil War. This summer was the 10th year of excavations there, and the site has yielded some interesting finds. "We're getting good insights into the origins of American culture by studying the interaction of the English, African and Native American people." One of the most exciting things they've found is evidence of Indians living on the plantation.

"The popular notion is that the English came and the Indians dissolved. We see in the artifacts that there was daily interaction between colonists and Indians. Indians from the Powhatan Chiefdom were hunting and fishing on the plantation, and they were producing goods — often as wage-earning employees."

In an aside, Mouer comments that his term is not politically incorrect. "Indian" is the word of choice of nearly all Indians today, including Native-American historians and other scholars. The term 'Native American' has been widely

adopted only by journalists and some scholars and others who are not Indian themselves and who don't work closely with Indian people."

After joining the VCU faculty in 1977, Mouer helped found the center that serves as a field school, giving students hands-on research experience. He teaches classes in sociology and anthropology as well as in the honors program and shares the center's associate director title with **Robin L. Ryder '81BS/H&S** and Douglas C. McLearen. They direct a full-time staff of 16, including several ARC alumni, like field director **Chris Egghart '83BS/H&S** and lab director **Beverly J. Binns '88BS/H&S**. There are two architectural historians on staff and a full-time graphic artist, Boris Churashev, who produces exhibits, technical reports and other materials.

The center grew out of the university's first archaeological summer field school held in 1969. "We have a good core of students from sociology, anthropology and history," Mouer says. "We serve a variety of disciplines, including art history, with opportunities for

student internships, independent research and study projects." The program celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer, and its alumni dot the field like arrowheads or Civil War bullets. Mouer reels them off. **Dr. Fredric Gleach '84BS/H&S** got his PhD in anthropology at the University of Chicago and teaches now at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky. **Bruce Terrell '79BS/H&S** finished graduate work in maritime archaeology and works for the Mariners Museum in Newport News. **Tracy Millis '84BS/H&S** is an archaeologist for New World Research, an engineering firm. **Kim Zawacki '93BS/H&S** was hired this summer as archaeology lab manager for Richmond's Valentine Riverside Museum. **Tom Cuddy '94BS/H&S** started graduate school in archaeology this fall at Columbia University.

LINDA LIVENGOD IS A RICHMOND JOURNALIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NORBOM, MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES, VCU.

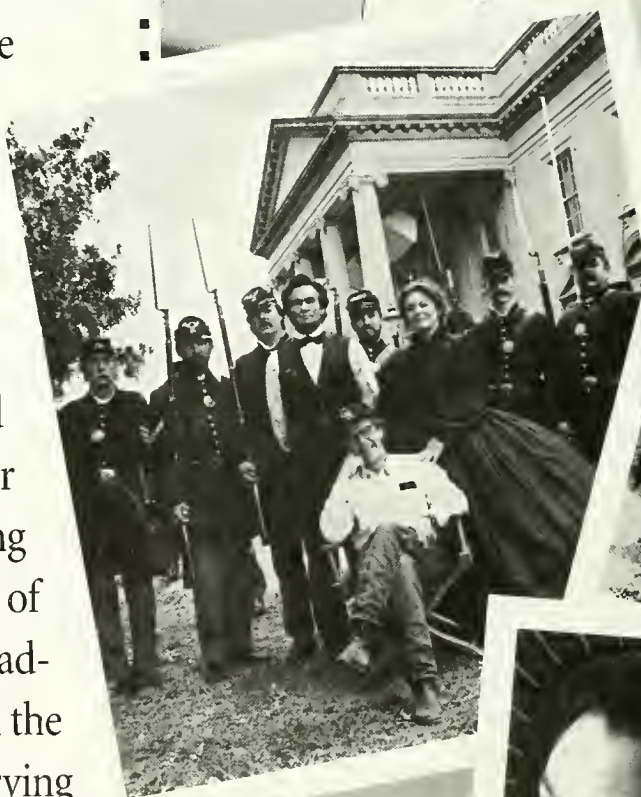


“

*Can you tell me how to get,  
how to get to Sesame Street?*

Sesame Street? How about New York, Los Angeles? That's where more than a handful of VCU alumni have stolen the show in film and television. Or directed the show, sold the show, animated the show or been in the show. ★ L.A. actor Gene Poe says, "There's a whole colony of VCU people out here." And they are producing topnotch work for Turner Pictures, MTV, Nickelodeon, Jim Henson and Disney. They are acting with Kevin Costner and Sharon Stone; doing theater in New York; even designing sets in Richmond. None of these School of the Arts graduates has broken a leg in the name of film, but with varying amounts of perseverance and luck they've all managed to break into The Business. ➤

fall







# OUR CHILDREN



## RISKY BUSINESS

“The best things that ever happened to me were because I took a risk,” says **Dick Robertson** ’67BS/MC. He started out working in television his freshman year at RPI—selling ads and assembling grocery store displays for a Richmond station. Judicious risk-taking and enthusiastic hard work have parleyed those beginnings into the presidency of Warner Brothers Domestic Television Distribution. It’s not the kind of television career that makes his face a familiar sight in American living rooms, but his decisions influence what you and your children tune in to every day. ★ After graduation, Robertson built a career in sales at NBC, then moved to CBS where he became vice-president of marketing for sports. The first big risk was prompted by “a desire to be my own boss”—and maybe to take his own risks, to put *his* judgment on the line. Robertson and two partners “went into the business of syndicating television shows.” Through Telepictures Corp., they produced and distributed made-for-TV movies and television shows like *People’s Court*. The jury is in, and the people ruled for Judge Wampler and others. Telepictures was so successful that it merged with Lorimar Inc. to become the “biggest TV company in Hollywood.” ★ When Warner Communications Inc. bought Lorimar Telepictures Corp. five years ago, Robertson took charge of domestic TV. “I work with any TV project that comes out of Time Warner,” says Robertson. “We create programs as well as sell network rights to programs other divisions make. We handle the cartoons on Fox networks, for example. We also create marketing campaigns around syndicated shows and sell national advertising time.” Robertson still uses some of his prime time to support VCU. “We had an alumni meeting at the Warner Brothers commissary and it was great. I met classmates I didn’t even know were out here.” He sponsors student interns like David Gibbs (page 23); and the VCU women’s tennis team will stay at his house in Malibu when they play California tournaments in March. Easy to see why the College of Humanities and Sciences chose him for their Outstanding Alumni Award for 1994. ✎ So, what’s the secret of his energy in this risky business? “My job is never boring. There’s a new season every year, the cycle of new shows never stops.”

## FATAL ATTRACTION

**Raynor Scheine** (formerly **Johnson**) ’70 BFA/A gets kicked around by all the right people. As a character actor working out of New York and Los Angeles, Scheine

spends most of his camera time as a murderer, junkie or psycho. ★ “I get beat up a lot,” says the actor. “Kim Basinger beat me up, Sharon Stone beat me up, Kevin Costner beat me up, then Gene Hackman killed me. It’s been a rough year.” ★ Scheine learned early to take his lumps. On several recent trips to VCU, he spoke to theater students about breaking into The Business. “I told ’em to just forget it,” he laughs. “It’s a hard business, very tough. I starved to death for the first 15 years.” But perseverance paid off. He’s had roles in 30 feature films and more than 100 stage productions. Television work includes stints on *China Beach*, *The Cosby*



*Bad company, but great company.* Raynor Scheine (far right) has fallen among thieves in *The Real McCoy*, but as an actor he lands with the best—Val Kilmer, Kim Basinger, Dean Cain, Duval and Terence Stamp (l-r).

*Show* and *L.A. Law*. But Scheine’s favorite projects have been in film and on the stage. A favorite stage performance was in August Wilson’s play, *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*. Another memorable part was the suspicious sheriff in *Fried Green Tomatoes*. He may have played that role just a little too well. “Everyone said I was so evil,” he says, aggrieved, “but I was just doing my job as a sheriff.” ★ What set those productions



apart from Scheine's other work? The quality of the writing, he says. "Actors are fortunate to get good writing—but you've got to pay the rent." ★ Scheine's lean, villainous film persona landed him roles in the western, *The Quick and the Dead* with Gene Hackman and Sharon Stone, and *The War* with Kevin Costner. ★ In a typical Shafer Court connection, Scheine found himself working on the set of *The War* with another VCU alumnus. **Jeremy Conway '78BFA/A**, who also won an Emmy for set design and art direction for David Letterman, was the art director for the film. (And Conway is one of VCU's 1994 Alumni Stars; see page 24.)

## GUIDING LIGHT

When **Kenneth Smith '69BA/A** graduated from VCU, George Lucas's *Star Wars* was eight years off. And Smith was still in a galaxy far, far away from two Oscars. ★ His first trek after VCU was into the United States Air Force, then to the University of South Carolina to study film production. At USC there was a dusty optical printer, the machinery used to create visual effects for films, that no one ever used. It interested Smith enough for him to use it for his master's thesis film. And that was the beginning. ★ "After I graduated, I called around trying to get work and got a job with Linwood Dunn. He's a legend in the business. He did visual effects for *Citizen Kane* and *King Kong*. I worked for him for three years. It was like working with a part of history." ★ With Jedi training from Yoda, it's not surprising that Smith works now for George Lucas, Obi-wan Kenobi himself, at Industrial Light and Magic. Smith won Oscars for his work in *E.T.* and *Innerspace*, recently did effects in *Mask*, and is now working on the Steven Spielberg production of *Casper* due in theaters next May. ★ What's it like making industrial strength magic? ★ "I find it fortunate that I ended up doing what I'm doing. In a master's film production class at USC, we were told that only 25 percent of us would get into films. But it's really a job like any other. You can work a solid year on a movie and sometimes it's rewarding, other times it's frustrating. Like any other craftsperson, I'm happy when I get to work on a really good film." ★ The technology has changed since he first experimented in graduate school, but only recently. "Up until a few years ago, we used optical printers. Now the technology is digital. There's been a real revolution." And, thanks to home video cassettes, "now, producers don't have to make all their money back on the theatrical release. They can reach wider audiences, so they're willing to take more risks." ★ And why not? The Force is with them.

## VCU'S BIG ADVENTURE

Blame the success stories on **Steve Segal '72BFA/A**. After all, he's the founder of Candy Apple Productions, a Richmond animation company active in the early '80s. That's where **Kathleen Quaife-Hodge '79BA/A** and **Frank Gresham '81BFA/A** got their start. Today, these alumni of Candy Apple and their fellow graduates in communication arts and design are a visible part of the talented New York and Los Angeles animation communities. ★ A swirl of pixie dust. A splash of water. A burst of flame. Quaife-Hodge calls it animated set decoration. "I do tons of pixie dust," says the special effects designer. Well, Tinkerbell likes her work. That's what she was hired to do at Disney's special projects division where she whipped up Tink's magic sparkle and other effects for pieces at the Disney park in Orlando. ★ All that fairy dust prepared her for a job with Turner Pictures Worldwide, as well as work on Don Bluth productions like *An American Tail*. This summer, Quaife-Hodge finished Turner's *Page Master*, scheduled for November release. A move back to Disney for *Pocahontas* is giving Quaife-Hodge the chance to apply her skills and two years of computer classes in a new area. In addition to traditional animation techniques, for this film she is experimenting with modeling natural phenomena in computer-animated particle systems, working in a digital environment. ★ "I do a lot of water, fire, exploding things," she says, "basically anything but the character. My work shows the result of a character moving through an environment, and that environment is disturbed." Her



A swirl of fairy dust. Kathleen Quaife-Hodge's "clients" for animated special effects range from Tinkerbell to Bill and Ted.

FAIRY DUST BY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN QUAIFE-HODGE





**Playing possum.** "It was a blast," says Frank Gresham about the fun he had working on an MTV cartoon (right) with fellow alumni Greg Harrison (below) and Dave Powers. Not everyone gets to animate roadkill for a living.

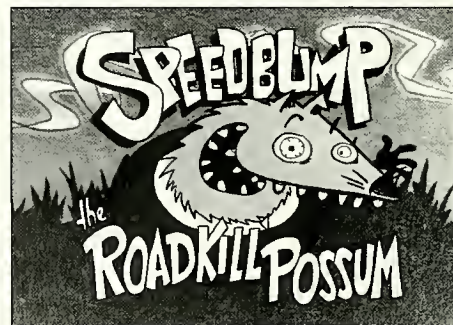


**Playmates.** Animator Greg Harrison hangs out with Conky 2000 from PeeWee's Playhouse.

design and animation of electricity, sparks and ectoplasm helped make Bill and Ted's adventures *most* excellent. ★ A "disturbed environment" is what three other VCU animators created with their hip tales of a possum flattened on the road. (Some alumni would argue—enthusiastically—that the VCU art school experience was ideal preparation.) Gresham, **Greg Harrison '81 BFA/A** and **Dave Powers**, who attended VCU for three years, teamed up a few years ago to produce *Speedbump, the Roadkill Possum* for MTV. The show marked Gresham's debut as a director, and opened doors for all three animators. "The work I did with David and Greg, most notably *Speedbump*, was the most gratifying all around," Gresham says. "It was a blast. It convinced me that that was what I wanted to do." ★ The career path Gresham took was followed by a cadre of VCU art students in the '80s. After a few years in Richmond, Gresham moved to D.C., then to New York City. "Phil Trumbo and I kept in touch and we moved to D.C. when we heard that a new studio, Broadcast Arts, was opening there. There were a few other VCU people there as well, among them Dave Powers and Kelly Alder," Gresham says. ★

Gresham followed Broadcast Arts to New York, then struck out on his own after the company folded in the early '90s. "I work primarily for myself, but currently I'm doing some work with Curious Pictures, which came out of the ashes of Broadcast Arts," he says. He also recently finished two animated segments for *Sesame Street*. ★

Gresham first got together with Powers and Harrison for a series of animated shorts for MTV. "We did a series of promos called *Brickface* and *Stucco*, which we designed, wrote and directed," Harrison says. "We did about 12 two-minute pieces that aired both as promos and as a block before *Liquid Television*, MTV's animation showcase." That work led the three of them to *Speedbump*. ★ Harrison is currently completing a major project for MTV called *Club Dead*, music television's first interactive movie on CD-ROM scheduled for release in November. Harrison says the "futuristic murder mystery takes live actors and digitally composites them onto computer-animated backgrounds." After the MTV project, Harrison will return to cable with a new Nickelodeon show, *Blam*, an animation showcase pitched to a younger audience. Harrison's piece is *The Adventures of Patch Head*, tales of an eight-year-old hillbilly kid who rides a Big Wheel powered by a V8 engine. And he may rejoin his VCU partners for a feature movie, *Brickface and Stucco's Big Black, Bone-Jarring, Turbot-Terror, Fuel-Injected Joyride*. ★ There's more than a dash of autobiography in that title. Gresham and his peers agree that in the animated life, "the exceptions are the projects that aren't fun." For these alumni, you can be sure that (bi dip, bi dip bi dip) That's *not* all, folks!



## THE MUPPET CAPER

One of her first jobs out of graduate school was working for the woman who designed Miss Piggy. That job opened the door for **Lauren Attinello '76 BFA/A**, who began sewing body costumes and then did puppet building, illustration and art direction with Jim Henson Productions and *Sesame Street*. It appears to have been a productive switch; Attinello has illustrated more than 35 children's books for the two companies. ★ Attinello says her path after VCU wasn't the one most fine art students expect to follow. She studied printmaking in England for a year, worked as a museum technician in a painting conservation lab at the Smithsonian, and then completed her master's in lithography at Pratt Institute. ★ When the Muppets entered her life, Attinello was ready. "I made Kermit for *The Muppets Take Manhattan*," she says. ★ Make that nine Kermits, each filling a particular role in the film. ★ Attinello says her



career as a puppet builder and then illustrator has been almost as educational as her years at VCU, if not more so. "One of the nicest things about my job is that I've learned so much and done so many different things. Not many places offer you that opportunity. There was a real snob appeal for fine arts when I was a student, but I certainly did a 180° turn by learning so much from illustrators." ★ Besides, Attinello admits, "I really feel more comfortable in two dimensions."

## SPEED

**Lenny Brisendine '83 BFA/A** doesn't regret leaving behind the fast-paced world of Los Angeles for the fast-paced world of Richmond. The set designer still works 36-hour days. His clients still want the work finished yesterday. But in Richmond, Brisendine can afford to be self-employed. ★ He began in L.A. as an actor. "Shortly after my wife and I arrived in L.A., we got pregnant and I thought, 'Hey, I'd better get a job.' After a while I was building sets." For Disney, which seems to be nearly as ubiquitous an employer as the soaps. Brisendine found himself designing and building props, sets and scenery for Disney theme parks. ★ It wasn't long before he headed back to the East Coast to start Church Hill Production Services. Now Brisendine has a hand in everything. "I do props, scenery, art direction, location management and scouting for film and video production companies." ★ The bulk of his work is set design for print and film advertising, but "the big project for me was a Paul Simon video for 'Proof' that we did a couple of years ago," he says. "It was a real nuts situation, and very difficult logistically." ★ The company representing Simon wanted a float for the video. Instantly, of course. "We ended up building this very nice float in the style of Mardi Gras, and we knocked it out in about 36 hours. We basically took it out to be shot for the video with wet paint." ★ But it was there, and on time. Proof positive of professionalism.

## TRUE LIES

**Richard Hankins '73BFA/A** was in New York when he got the call to rush out to California to art direct on the critically-acclaimed series *NYPD Blue*. He was there and working within three weeks. But then speed is the norm in his business. "One time I was hired on a Friday and had to have new sets done on Monday. I spent the weekend in my bathrobe drawing." ★ Hankins divides his time between New York and Los Angeles. "I've driven across the country three times in the last two and a half years." His New York resume reads like *Soap Opera Digest*, including stints on *Another World* and *Texas*. Ten years on *Guiding Light* earned him two Emmys and seven nominations. His wife, Cassie Wesley, is an actor on *One Life to Live*. ★ As art director, Hankins is in charge of the total look of a show. First he gets the scripts and does the floor plans. Then he reviews it with the director. The scenic designer draws it up. The crew builds the sets, a decorator fills them with the appropriate personality, and then he confers with the cinematographer. ★ "You have to do your research to be truly authentic and for me that's the most pleasurable part. If you're doing a period piece, you find out how things were made and how people did things during the period. And you have to get into the character's mind. You figure out their back-



COURTESY OF LAUREN ATTINELLO

■ **Glamour pig.** Alumna Lauren Attinello catches some rays with Miss Piggy, photo stylist Danielle Obinger, and costumer Barbara Davis (back).



DENNIS McWATERS

■ **Location, location, location.** A certain first family needed a White House look-alike for shooting a movie in Richmond. Alumnus Lenny Brisendine was location scout for Tad, and did he have a house for the Lincolns. At home at the former Home for Confederate Women are Brisendine, flanked by Kris Kristofferson as Abraham Lincoln and Jane Curtin as Mary Todd Lincoln. The rental soldiers are from Living History Associates, Ltd.

There are still more alumni we couldn't fit in so

## ROLL THE CREDITS!

**Rene Battoclette '81BFA/A**  
costume design  
*Return of the Living Dead*

**Jeremy Conway '78BFA/A**  
production design  
Emmys: Late Night David Letterman, Penn & Teller Special

**Woody Eney '63BFA '67MFA/A**  
actor  
*Dallas, Taxi*

**John Fifer '71BFA/A**  
actor  
*Beastmaster II, Rice Krispies commercials*

**Stephen Furst '76BFA/A**  
actor  
*St. Elsewhere, Babylon 5, Animal House, Dream Team*

**Nina Graham '75BFA/A**  
first woman cinematographer hired by  
Disney

**Llewellyn Harrison Jr.**  
set designer  
*Twin Peaks, House Party II*  
1991 Drama Log Critics Award L.A.

**Howard Hoffman**  
Saatchi & Saatchi,  
animator  
*The Trix Rabbit*

**Eddy Houchins '80 BFA/A**  
animator  
*Heavy Metal*

**Barclay Lottimer '74BFA/A**  
actor  
*One Life to Live*

**Precious Lovell '81BFA/A**  
children's costume designer for Spike Lee

**Charles Massey '67BFA/A**  
agent  
Charles Massey Talent Group

**Samuel Maupin '72BFA/A**  
actor  
*As the World Turns, The Passion of Dracula*

**Randy Mercer '80BFA/A**  
stage makeup  
Glen Close in *Sunset Boulevard*

ground and decide what they would have around them. If you're doing a drug dealer's apartment, for example, you have to think, what would he cover his windows with? Where would he keep his drugs? I've had writers tell me I know their characters better than they do. That's the theater training coming out." ★ Hankins worked at the Virginia Museum Theatre and did many shows in Richmond during the '70s. In New York, he went into television. "Television is different. In theater, they tear down a set and it's gone. At least in TV you have a video. And in TV, you design a set for the action, only for what the camera's going to see. It's closer and has to look more real than in the theater." ★ But how real is it? "It's truly an illusion. You can stand two feet away from a set and it looks real, but it's plain wood painted to look like metal or marble or mahogany. There's a lot of craftsmanship involved." And, of course, *NYPD Blue* is mostly shot in Los Angeles at Twentieth Century Fox Studios. ★ Hankins says his job has its ups and downs, but he "hasn't stopped working." And he'd like to reopen the connection for VCU design students to talk with him about the business. ★ "It's a great field to be in."

## SAY ANYTHING

**Pamela Lewis '73 BFA/A** spoke up and got herself into the productive field of voiceovers. "I did a lot of theater for years and got tired of all the traveling," says Lewis. "So, I switched." ★ Over the last ten years, she's been the sighs of Melanie Griffith in *Working Girl*, the cooing baby in *The Untouchables* and several different flavors of Ritz Crackers. She joined 10 other voice specialists in creating the roar of crowds for the film *Bob Roberts*, and continued her political work in a less fictitious setting—providing voice work for 21 commercials during the last national political campaign. ★ And while she misses some aspects of live performance—hey, this is steady work. "I always miss the live audiences, that's the down side. But I really enjoy the commercial side. There is a creative end to it. It's always fun to do something well, and I look at all of my work as part of my performance career." ★ Not that she's been locked up in a sound room for the past decade. That's not what her years at VCU prepared her for, she says. "VCU was very good training. It was very practical. The message was, 'Get out and work.' I've done the soaps, I've done PBS, commercials, theater." She spent this past summer working the long hours of theater with two shows in Olney, Maryland. While she was wrapping up performances of the comedy *A Small Family Business*, she was rehearsing for the theater's production of *Night of the Iguana*.



*A voice in the crowd. The next sound you hear may be voiceover expert Pamela Lewis—cooing, shrieking—or giving voice to several varieties of Ritz crackers.*

COURTESY OF PAMELA LEWIS

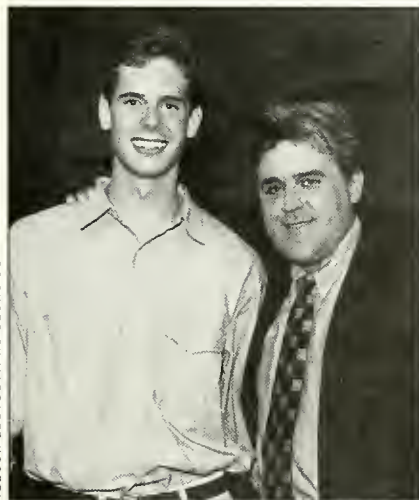
## MR. POE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

**Gene Poe '71BFA/A** says he got into politics because he couldn't keep his mouth shut. "No one from VCU could," says Poe. "Our professors instilled young people with an attitude that anything is possible." ★ But Mr. Poe didn't go to Washington or even run for governor of California. Not enough drama there, perhaps. "The politics in D.C. pale next to the politics in Hollywood," Poe says, and he knows what he's talking about. For five years he worked with the Screen Actor's Guild and the Screen Extra's Guild, where he was president. "I started doing roles and didn't like what I saw. I started speaking out and getting elected." ★ The road to Burbank never did run smooth. "I left VCU trying to find myself," Poe says. "I went to Europe to avoid going



to New York." In London, he met people from Hollywood and eventually ended up there. ★ Poe's advice to the filmstruck at VCU some years ago was that, "not everyone can be a movie star, but you can still have a good life working in the business. Take every opportunity that comes along whether it's an acting job or an editing job." In his own career, Poe refuses to be typecast as only an actor. "I've done just about every job in this business. Acting, print work, casting, production. I know the system." ★ Some of his latest work includes commercials for Blockbuster Video and Kentucky Fried Chicken. He is also working production, camera coordinating, on the second season of *Ellen* (formerly *These Friends of Mine*), which includes, "telling actors where to go so the camera will always be on them. And actors love for the camera to be on them." ★ Through the university's extern program connecting graduates with alumni in their fields, Poe is a resource for young VCU people in his area. "I can help them with professional aspects, but I can also tell them what's what. I didn't have that and I had some unpleasant experiences. There are so many scams out there, young people can be easily duped in Los Angeles." ★ Poe's volunteer work with people with AIDS is a vital part of his life. "As I get older, what I consider 'achievement' changes. I have a different point of view. It's not as important now to win an election as it is to go visit an AIDS patient. I've seen so many people die from the disease. I'm especially moved by the women with children." ★ Another interest is painting, which has become his passion. And once again he refuses typecasting. Often a character actor, Poe has become a kind of character painter. His most recent show was titled "No Style." He explains, "A gallery owner once told me I had no style because all my paintings are different, because I do a variety of styles—realism, abstract, cubism, cartoonish, religious or erotic. You go into some galleries and everything looks the same. Painting is like acting in that respect, people will try to pigeon-hole you." His work is selling, too. ★ Even with all of his other interests, Poe will continue to work in Hollywood because he's "comfortable in it." And he still loves Europe. ★ "My ultimate goal is to live to be 100 and die in a field of sunflowers while painting in France." ★ Long shot, freeze frame.

TOGETHER AGAIN! BOTH LINDA MILLS AND JOHN SARVAY ARE PREVIOUS EDITORS OF VCU VOICE AND RICHMOND FREELANCE WRITERS.



NBC PHOTO BY MARGARET NORTON

#### IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

Yes, that is **David Gibbs '94BS/B**. And who's that with him? When Gibbs saw Jay Leno at an L.A. gas station the summer of '93, he took a risk and spoke up. "Pursue your dreams," Leno told him. Gibbs did. Three weeks on *The Tonight Show* staff, bit parts in *Briscoe County, Jr.*, and *On Deadly Ground*.

But Gibbs wouldn't have been there at all without VCU alumnus **Dick Robertson**. Robertson, president at Time Warner in television, invited Gibbs to California to get the behind-the-scenes angle on television at Time Warner. Robertson also funded the invitation, and says, "It's great to give the kids a chance and it's rewarding for me to spend time with them."

VCU Alumni, this could happen to you, too. Alumni may sponsor students through the Alumni Extern Program during spring break,

March 13-17. Students gain valuable career information by working with or shadowing alumni for the week. If you are interested in mentoring a student extern, contact VCU Alumni Activities, 310 North Shafer St., P.O. Box 843044, Richmond, VA 23284-3044, (804) VCU-ALUM (828-2586); fax: (804) 828-0878; email: mercer@cabell.vcu.edu.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS LIBBY STEPHENS AND ALLYSON WYLD PROVIDED INFORMATION ON DICK ROBERTSON AND EXTERN DAVID GIBBS

**Kerry Oaksmith '81BFA/A**  
set designer  
*Twin Peaks*

**Jack Parrish '76BFA/A**  
actor  
*Another World*

**Lenny Pass '74BFA/A '76BFA/MED**  
actor  
*Tootsie, Flamingo Kid*

**June Renfrow '71BFA/A**  
agent for Martin Mull, Rue McClanahan

**Steve Segal '72BFA/A**  
animator  
*Futuropolis*

**C.J. Simpson '76BFA/A**  
set designer  
*Crossing Delancy*

**Liz Trout '69BFA/A**  
special effects  
*Fraggle Rock*

**Phil Trumbo '72BFA/A**  
animator  
Doug, Emmy for *Pee Wee's Playhouse*

**Keith Van Allen**  
animation  
Ronald McDonald (in Spanish), Tasmanian Devil

**David Williams '85MFA/A '86MS/H&S**  
filmmaker  
*Lilian*  
1993 Sundance Film Festival award  
and in *Hollywood Reporter's*  
Top 10 for 1993

**Tracy Wolfe**  
actor  
*Lethal Weapon, Lethal Weapon II*

**Kevin Zeheb**  
production assistant  
*Designing Women, St. Elmo's Fire*

Everybody gets into the act:

Lawyer **David Baldacci '83BA/H&S**  
sold his novel, *The Executive Power* to Warner Books and the movie rights to Castle Rock Entertainment in November.

Even the School of Nursing . . .  
**Darlene Fishman '71BS/N** wrote recently that her son Michael plays D.J. on *Roseanne*.

## Starry Night

*These are alumni whose diverse achievements and contributions reflect their unique career successes and devotion to the university. VCU was proud to honor them at the Alumni Recognition Dinner, November 4, 1994. The dinner at the University Commons featured Michael Stopford, Director of the U. N. Information Centre, who spoke about global concerns as the world is "Coming in from the Cold War."*



### SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**Lou Oliver Brooks**  
'77BFA Fashion Design/A '82BS  
Physical Therapy

*Star Quality* ★ Devoted over five years of outstanding service to the university and to the School of Allied Health Professions through her volunteer service with the MCV Alumni Association.



### SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

**Jeremy Conway**  
'78 BFA Communication Arts and Design

*Star Quality* ★ Won Emmys as designer/art director for *Late Night with David Letterman* and *Penn and Teller Special*. He was also art director for *Crocodile Dundee II* and other movies, and production designer for Stephen King's *Golden Years* and 1992 Olympic Summer Games at Barcelona.



### SCHOOL OF BASIC HEALTH SCIENCES

**W. Dalton Dietrich III**  
'79 PhD Anatomy

*Star Quality* ★ A nationally recognized investigator into the cellular and biochemical basis of brain injury that accompanies head trauma or stroke. His work has led to better drug and hypothermic therapies to reduce damage following stroke.



### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**David K. Hunt**  
'69 BS Accounting

*Star Quality* ★ CEO of AT&T Universal Card Services, the country's second largest credit card issuer.

# Founders' Day





SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Claire A. Collins**

**'84 MPA Public Administration**

*Star Quality* ★ The Administrator for Bath County, Virginia, she has contributed over eight years of service to the university through her involvement with the School of Community and Public Affairs Alumni Board and with the VCU Alumni Association.



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

**A. Carole Pratt**

**'76 DDS**

*Star Quality* ★ Exemplary service to the School of Dentistry and work with the Virginia Dental Association. Selected one of the "Top Ten" Business Women of America in 1983 by the American Business Women's Association.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Sydney S. Sherrod**

**'72 BS '76 MEd Distributive Education**

**'86 PhD Urban Services**

*Star Quality* ★ Co-founder of the Agere Foundation whose mission is to create innovative educational programs that focus on career development through business and education partnerships.



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND  
SCIENCES

**Michelle B. Mitchell**

**'84 BS Psychology**

*Star Quality* ★ Elected Sheriff of the City of Richmond, she is Virginia's first woman sheriff. Mitchell is one of only 14 women among 3,000 sheriffs in the United States.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Richard C. Davis**

**'81 MD**

*Star Quality* ★ Blending entrepreneurial interests with medical education, Dr. Davis founded four medical technology companies involved in planning, research and development of life-saving and life-improving products. Awarded 13 patents and issued or has pending 21 trademarks for his products.



SCHOOL OF NURSING

**Dana A. Moriconi**

**'76 BS '87 MBA**

*Star Quality* ★ Outstanding service to the School of Nursing's Alumni Conference and on the Centennial fundraising committee, which successfully raised over \$300,000 to provide the school with its first endowed professorship.



PROGRAM OF NONTRADITIONAL  
STUDIES IN THE DIVISION OF  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Joan E. Rexinger**

**'86 BGS**

*Star Quality* ★ Over seven years of dedicated volunteer service to the university through her work with Friends of the Library, the Nontraditional Studies Alumni Board and the VCU Alumni Association.



SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

**Barry L. Carter**

**'80 PharmD**

*Star Quality* ★ Nationally and internationally recognized for significant contributions to clinical Pharmacy practice in primary care settings.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Michael A. Evans**

**'76 BSW '81 MSW**

*Star Quality* ★ Director of the Department of Social Services for the City of Richmond, the largest local social service agency in the Commonwealth.

# 1994

# ALUMNET



The Alumni Board Room gleams in the University Student Commons, paid for by VCU Alumni Association gifts and dues. Design by students in Interior Design Studio, woodwork and table by adjunct faculty member, John Brown.

We'd like to welcome graduates of the School of Community and Public Affairs to their new schools. In VCU's restructuring, the School was absorbed by the university in July. SCC will identify alumni by their new schools: Urban Studies and Planning is a department in H&S; Public Administration moved to the political science department in H&S and the Center for Public Policy; Justice and Risk Administration became the Department of Criminal Justice in H&S, except for Safety and Risk Administration which moved to Finance and Insurance in B; Recreation, Parks and Tourism became part of the Division of Recreation, Health and Physical Education in E. Rehabilitation Counseling undergraduate programs were discontinued, and the master's program is a department in AH—all alumni will be identified as from AH(RC).

\* VCU Alumni Association dues-paying member.

## 1950s

**Charles Thomas '59BS/MC**  
retired in Spanish Fort, AL.

## 1960s

**Frank Britt '64BS/MC** is president of The Britt Agency in Lynchburg, VA.

## 1970s

**Judith Aronson '75BS/E** is a sales associate with Texas Meat Purveyors in San Antonio.

**Pamela Barefoot '72BS/H&S** received the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year Award in July. Pamela is owner

and president of Blue Bay Crab company in Onancock, VA, where she lives.

**Lt. Col. Roland Burgess '76BS/B** was recently promoted to his present rank in the Marine Corps while serving with Aircraft Group 31 at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, SC.

**Terry Crum '79MBA/B** is director of operation and information services at Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry in Nashville. He is featured in the April 4 issue of the *Nashville Business Journal*.

**Theresa Daus-Weber '75BSW/SW** was named to the US National Team to race the 100 Kilometer North American Championships in Victoria, British Columbia. She was a bronze medalist winner in the 1992 100k national championship in Sacramento, CA. Theresa is a technical editor with Dames & Moore International Engineering Consultant firm in Denver.

**Paul Draisey '78BS/MC** is president and CEO of KBK Communications, Inc. in Middleburg, VA.

**Carmen Foster '74BS/MC** was selected for the Kellogg National Fellowship Program to receive a three-year study grant of \$35,000 to fund a self-designed plan of study. Carmen is director of two-year programs for the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She is also cofounder of VCU's African-American Alumni Council.

**JoAnn West Frohman '76BS/MC** is senior reporter for *The Daily Press* in Newport News.

**Joel Harris '78BA/H&S** was featured in the August 8 issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for his past political and area business ventures.

**Patricia Hassard '79MS/MC** is marketing director for Mays & Valentine law firm in Richmond.

**Audrey Tyler Hingley '73BS/MC** is a freelance writer and public relations consultant in Mechanicsville. Audrey recently co-authored *Life after Lucy*, the true story of *I Love Lucy's* child star Keith Thibodeaux, who played little Ricky and became a

"third child" of the Arnaz family. The book was released this summer with New Leaf Press.

**Dr. Henry Lowenstein '75BS/B** is new chair of the Business and Economics Division of West Virginia University, Parkersburg.

**Nancy Worley Martin '75MS/AH** received the Jane H. Friend Award honoring her work in vocational rehabilitative counseling with the City of Danville (Virginia) schools.

**Mark Shapiro '70BS/B** is owner and president of Mark-O Distributing Co. in Norcross, GA. Mark has been owner of the wholesale electronics and gift items business for 15 years.

**Debra Gardner Snyder '79BS/MC** is management analyst senior for the Virginia Employment Commission. She lives in Colonial Heights, VA.

**Dwight Storke Jr. '74MEd/E** retired after serving 33 years with the National Park Service as front-line interpreter for the George Washington Birthplace in Montross, VA.

**James Bruce Vigen ThD '73BA/H&S** is chairman of the Lutheran Missionary Association in Madagascar, where he served as a missionary since 1978.

**Gregory Wingfield '76 MURP/H&S** is the new president of Metro Richmond Economic Development Partnership Inc.

**John Wolford '74BS/H&S** is the new police chief for the City of Charlottesville, VA.

## 1980s

**Gary Alston '89BA/H&S** is inside salesperson for Marmon/Keystone's service center in Richmond, where he and his wife, Jennifer live and are the parents of a daughter.

**Timothy Anderson '80BS '82BS/H&S** followed up VCU degrees in biology and chemistry with an MS in biochemistry at New York Medical College and an international MBA at University of Bridgeport.

He spent five years as a biochemist, doing research and



development in foods and pharmaceuticals for Nabisco, Foxboro Analytical and Clinton Research Consultants, Purdue-Frederick Research Center and Miles, Inc. In 1992 he became a review chemist for the Office of Generic Drugs in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In March 1994 he returned to industry at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation, where he was recently promoted to vice president for drug registration and regulatory affairs for Sandoz' Creighton Products division. In his new position, Anderson oversees the filing of ANDAs to the FDA for Sandoz products which are about to come off-patent—and then the generic form of the drugs is marketed through Creighton Products.

Timothy and his wife, Nancy, have four children—Matthew, 6; James, 4; Victoria, 2; and Erica, born in April. The family lives in Redding, CT.

**Jane Williams Ballard** '89BA/H&S received a master's degree in library and information science from University of South Carolina in May 1993. She was recently inducted into Beta Phi Mu, a international library honor society. She is a librarian at the Greenville Correctional Center in Jarrat—and wrote the profile on Bernard Harris in this issue.

**Patricia Binns** '85BS '93MBA/B is manager of shared services at Reynolds Metals Company. She is responsible for the central processing and automation of the company's accounts payable.

**Paula Burke Brockenbrough** '81BS/E is a respiratory therapist at MCV Hospitals' Neuroscience Department. She and her husband, Allan, live in Ashland with their son, Eamon Burke.

**Calvin Duncan** '88BS/E is the Continental Basketball Association's coach of the year for his work with the Tri-City (Wash.) Chinook. He was featured in the July 24 issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

**Richard Eberhart** '89BS/B and his wife Stephanie, are the proud parents of a son, Patrick Ryan, born April 13. Richard is

store manager of The Avenue in Manassas.

**Dr. Kimberly Golden** '82 MME/A is currently designing a concentration in music education leading to certification N-12 for the Department of Music at Bridgewater State College, MA.

**Holly Foley Green** '84BS/H&S is a juvenile parole officer with the Virginia Beach Court Service Unit. She and her husband, David have a son, David Austin, born in September, 1993.

**Doug Hansell** '86BS/E is coordinator of Extracorporeal Life Support (ECMO) at Duke Medical Center. ECMO is a therapy for critically ill infants and children. Hansell explains, "In essence it is prolonged heart lung bypass for those children whose heart and/or lungs are temporarily unable to sustain life. I've been involved in the program here for four years. We've treated over 130 patients with a survival rate of nearly 80% (these patients have a greater than 80 percent chance of dying)."

**Cabell Harris** '82BFA/A has returned to the Richmond area to set up an advertising agency.

**Gloria Harris** '80MED/E is principal at Princess Anne Elementary School in Virginia Beach.

**Karen Heflin Kirkland** '80BS/B is corporate accounting systems manager with Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation in Richmond.

**R. Steven Landes** '84BS/MC was recently appointed to a four-year term on the board of trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia.

**Eric Law** '88BS/B is managing director of Evergreen Management Co. Ltd., managing real estate development in Hong Kong.

**Ann Hunter Lawson** '87BS/E

was featured in the July 25 issue of *The News & Advance* of Lynchburg for her involvement with the Appomattox County Recreation Department.

**Jerry Lewis** '81BS/MC is director of publications at the University of Miami.

**Robin Christy Lewis** '85BA/B married Andrew Thomas Kegley, May 21 in Stafford County, VA. Robin is pharmacy technician coordinator at Mary Washington Hospital. The couple lives in Spotsylvania County.

**Patricia Maslyk** '84BA/H&S married Gregg Scheibel, May 14. Patricia works for Bristles Hair Design in Charlottesville, where the couple lives.

**Beverly Mention Minor** '82BS/B is manager of Education Consulting Department for HBO & Company in Washington. Lindsay Shannon, second child of Beverly and her husband Paul, was born on July 13.

**Anna Buffo Noland** '83BS/E received a master's degree in vocational special needs from Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center. Anna is a special education teacher and department chairperson at Hopewell High School.

**Kevin Noland** '83BS/MC is senior marketing writer for Telecommunications Techniques Corporation in Germantown, MD.

**Irene Platz** '83BFA/A has been practicing art therapy for eight years in Dade County Schools in Florida, working with K-12 students who are severely emotionally disturbed. Irene has a master's degree in art therapy from George Washington University.

**Lisa Troutman Oliva** '89BS/MC is publications specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.



Host **John Royall** '71/B welcomes Associate Provost for Engineering **Henry McGee** and his wife **Betty Rose** to Washington.



**Russ Norfleet** '74BS '78MS/B talks business with **Alfreeda Cardwell** '80BS '84MBA/B.



**Shanelle Armstrong** '93BS/H&S catches up with **Ronnie Alexander** '92BS/B.



Alumnus **Phillip Hylton** '72 BA/H&S and his wife **Dr. Lauren Black** '90 PhD/M.



Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs **Tom Shupe** (r) shares an artist's drawing of the planned Convocation Center with two **Greg Weaver** '94BS/H&S and **Kenny Day** '94BS/MC.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY JONES.

## WASHINGTON ALUMNI MEET

The Washington Alumni Reception was held October 26 at the Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square in downtown Washington. More than 165 alumni and their guests attended and heard "news from home" from President Eugene P. Trani, several deans and faculty members. This was also the "world premiere" of VCU's twelve-minute recruitment and promotional video produced by Melissa Burnside of University News Services staff. School of Business alumnus **John Royall** '71/B hosted fellow alumni.

# SNOW BALL IN BENKKU'S BASKET

## Bernard Harris

BY JANE WILLIAMS BALLARD '89BA/H&S

During his four years at VCU in the early '70s, where he learned his craft under Coach Chuck Noe with future stars like **Jess Dark '74BSW/SW**, **Reginald Cain '78BS/B** and **Dave Edwards**, Bernard Harris couldn't imagine a basketball career anywhere but the United States. "Playing in Europe never occurred to me," he recalls. But 20 years after leaving the Rams, Harris has followed the bouncing ball to such far-flung locales as Israel, Germany, Switzerland and the Philippines with the Continental Basketball Association. And he's won fame as a player, coach, author and television star in his adopted country of Finland.

"I had no idea I'd end up overseas," says Harris, who began his international basketball career during his last year in school with an AAU team coached by Larry Brown. "When I sit and think about it now, it was the farthest thing from my mind." During an 11-game tour of the former Soviet Union, the team passed through Finland. "I was springtime and warm; we stayed a week and I liked it." His agent suggested he check out a job there, so he visited Turku, in southern Finland, during the fall. "A friend suggested I take winter clothes, but since it had been warm there before, I just took fall and summer stuff," Harris chuckles. "I arrived on September 18—and a foot of snow fell on October 1."

It may have been winter, but Finland felt warm to Harris. "After six years, I was tired of traveling, so I decided to stay for a year." Sounds like Harris was pleasantly snowed in, metaphorically as well as literally. "Time just passed," he says, as he made friends and settled down.

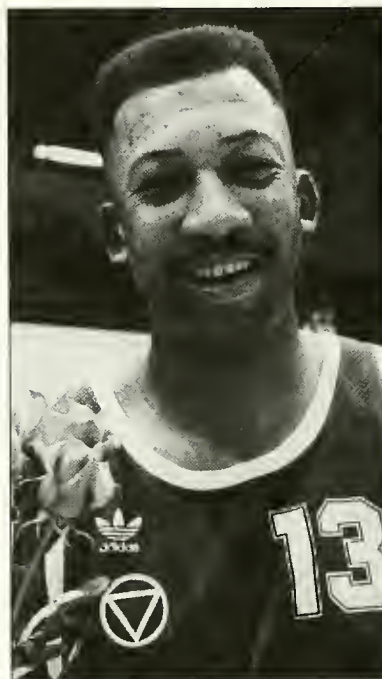
His Finnish career began at the Turku Nmky (the Finnish YMCA—although the clubs are quite different from the U.S. organization). He also played three seasons for Helsinki before he finally landed in Salo where he's been assistant coach and player for Salpa since 1987.

Among the 20,000 Finns in Salo, the 7' black American is a standout. In fact, he is a national figure in Finland, with a national nickname, "Benkku." In 1988 he published a book for children, *Koripallo (Basketball)*, that can be found in most Finnish libraries. A spin-off from the book's popularity, *Benkku's Basket* ran for two spring seasons on cable TV. Harris does speak Finnish, but Benkku's broadcasts were taped in English and translated. "Finnish is one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn," says Harris. "I've been picking it up as I go along." The 15 cases for nouns make it difficult, but his Finnish wife, Soile, is an incentive. They married in 1990, and their daughter, Mercedes, is 15 months old. Harris also has a 22-year-old son, Paul Jordan, who's just finished a tour in the Navy and has plans to come to VCU.

In addition to playing and coaching, "Benkku" has compiled a list of the top 25 basketball countries in Europe—complete with contacts, phone and fax numbers—which he hopes to publish for U.S. players. "A lot of guys are interested in Europe," he says. "The NBA can't accommodate everybody, but there's plenty of demand over here."

Benkku has made his adopted country home. Those roses he's holding celebrate his Finnish citizenship. But he still misses the United States. "Being away makes you appreciate it a little more," he notes. "You learn you've taken a lot of things for granted." Anti-American sentiment is strong in Europe, he notes, and offers advice for those venturing overseas. "You have to remember you're in another country. Things are going to be different."

A difference that the VCU basketball star could hardly have imagined back in Richmond—and can't imagine otherwise now.



COURTESY OF BERNARD HARRIS

**Maria Carrillo Price '85BS/MC** is assistant city editor for *The Free Lance-Star* in Fredericksburg.

**Donna Shank '88BFA/A** married Dale Armstrong in July. The couple lives in Harrisonburg, VA.

**Cindy Leigh Sheppard '86BS/B** and **Harry William Weinstock '75BS/B** were married July 1 at Evelynnton Plantation in Charles City. Cindy is vice-president of ATTACK Properties, Inc. Harry is executive director of the Virginia Head Injury Foundation in Richmond, where the couple reside.

**Tara Silver-Malyska '82BFA/A** is briefing attorney for the Court of Appeals, Fifth District of Texas at Dallas.

**Carol Wells Stevenson '80Med/E** was named Outstanding Home Economics Teacher in the United States in an annual competition sponsored by the Home Baking Association. Carol teaches home economics at Liberty Middle School in Ashland, where she lives.

**Joanne Taylor '82BS/B** married Tony Taylor on February 12, and recently celebrated the birth of their daughter, Shannon. Joanne is the new assistant controller for Virginia State University in Petersburg. Her son, Tony, currently attends VCU.

**Nichole Torrice '87BS/B** married John Chapman of Manassas on October 1. Nichole is manager and regional trainer for Hooters Restaurant in Rockville, MD.

**Samuel Trail '82BS/H&S** attended "March on New York" this summer. Sammy is a bartender at Renegade in Rehoboth Beach, DE, where he lives.

**Melody Lynn Trumball '83BFA/A** married Timothy Wade Jones, August 13 in Roanoke. Melody is a substance abuse counselor at Green Point Chemical Dependency Center in Greensboro, NC.

**Dr. Allyson Van Steenberg '83BS/H&S** has joined Pediatric Associates in Harrisonburg. Allyson is an instructor in the neonatal resuscitation program.

FREELANCE WRITER JANE WILLIAMS BALLARD IS A LIBRARIAN AT GREENSVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER IN JARRATT, VIRGINIA



**Dana Ward '81BS '86MBA/B** was named vice-president and area manager with Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation in the company's Louisiana office in New Orleans.

**Steven Watson '87BS/B** married Deborah Farmer, August 7 at the University of Virginia Chapel. Steven graduated from the UVA Department of Radiography Program. The couple resides in Waynesboro.

## 1990s

**Michele Eilene Albinder '90BFA/A** married Jaymi Howard Goldberg August 13 in Norfolk. She is a graphic designer with Adworks in Georgetown, VA.

**Kim Mae Alexander '92BS/MC** is producer/director for WFXI Fox 8 in Morehead City, NC. She writes, edits and shoots commercials for the syndicated show, *Coastal Carolina Fishing*.

**Battinto Batts Jr. '90BS/MC** is municipal/general assignment reporter for the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* in Florida.

**James Scott Bokern '92MURP/H&S** married Patricia Lynn Brandt, July 16 in Lynchburg. James works for the City of North Port, VA.

**Eliza Dandridge Bosworth '93BFA/A** married Alan Hayden Pryor III, on August 6 in Newport News. The couple lives in Richmond.

**Jacquelyn Brown '93BGS/NTS** is editorial assistant for health & fitness with Essence Communications Inc., *Essence Magazine* in New York City.

**Randolph Carila '93BS/MC** and Gretchen Leah Shuman '93BS/MC were married May 21. Randolph is security officer for the twin tower Riverfront Plaza office in downtown Richmond. Gretchen is a typesetter and graphic designer for Advanced Printing and Graphics.

**Michelle Cooper '94BS/B** is office manager for the Survey Research Lab, a division of the newly formed Center for Public Policy at VCU.

**Lisa DaFoe '90BS/MC** is publicity coordinator for the County of Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks.

**Patrick Dolan '92MBA/B** is finance officer for the Open Society Institute in Budapest, Hungary.

**Sherry Tharpe Dunn '91BS/MC** is a field claims adjuster for Progressive Insurance Company in Richmond.

**Lauren Evans '93Med/E** was featured in the September 7 issue of the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* for completing a 2,155-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail. Lauren is a teacher for learning disabled children at Matoaca Elementary School in Richmond.

**Michael Fanguy '93BS/H&S** is pursuing a master's degree in nuclear engineering at UVA.

**Elissa Lauren Field '92BA/H&S** and **Jefferson A. Thompson '91BS/H&S** were married July 30 in Fairfield, CT. **Sharon Lineker '91BA/H&S**, **Thomas Arkwright '88BS/B**, **Jacqueline Redhage '92BA/H&S** and **Brian Thompson '93BS/B** all came for the wedding. Elissa and Jeff live in South Florida.

**Jonathan Fish '93BS/B** accepted a position with Anderson Consulting firm in London, England.

**Laura Ellen Ford '91BA/H&S** was awarded a research assistantship under chairman Jan de Vries in her first year of the doctoral program in history at University of California, Berkeley.

**Lisa Gehley '92BFA/A** is engaged to Charles Kotal of Greenwich, CT. Lisa works for JCPenny and will attend VCU in the fall to pursue a master's degree in art. Charles is currently a student at MCV. They are planning a May wedding in Richmond.

**James Lawrence Gore '92MBA/B** and **Sallie Edith Hobbs** were married June 4 in Salem, VA. James is employed by A.M.F. in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Elizabeth Lowell Gross '91MSW/SW** married David Pablo Amor, July 16 in Virginia Beach. The couple lives in



*Class of '16. Future alumnus Curtis George Ralph Rowlette enjoys the attention of his mom, Corrine Rowlette '80BS/H&S, AAAC Vice President Marilyn Day '76BS/E '79MED/E, and AAAC President Michelle Dixon Jones. Dad Tony Rowlette, past council president, is behind the camera, of course.*

## AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL

"Let's reconnect with our university," says **Michelle Dixon Jones '87BS/H&S**, president of the African American Alumni Council. That's her theme for her presidency. And the council has plenty of opportunities for that, from mentoring students to networking events, to helping organize the Black History Month program.

AAAC's major focus is recruitment and retention of black students at VCU, and there is an increase in black freshmen. But as one council member comments, "It's easy to get into school, but it's not easy to stay in." The council makes it a little easier for students, sponsoring recruitment events and scholarships as well as mentoring and support workshops.

Past council president **Tony Rowlette '86BS/P '87BS/H&S** says, "I get a lot of satisfaction from knowing that VCU is interested in improving the livelihood of African Americans."

So, join AAAC. Reconnect with some old friends, make new ones, and help young students who need your support.

Call **Barbara Payton '83BS/MC** at VCU Alumni Activities (804) VCU-ALUM.

Smithfield.

**Amy Elizabeth Hagerman '91MSW/SW** married Charles Edward Drescher on August 27 in Virginia Beach. She is a social worker at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.

**Sharry Hanson '93BS/H&S** married James G. Motley III, August 13 in Richmond. Sharry is a supervisor/statistician for Nabisco in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Lisa Ann Harvey '93BS/MC** is a free-lance writer for the Metropolitan Business Guide. She is also communications assistant for the Virginia General Baptist Board. She lives in Glen Allen.

**Charles Heath '90MURP/H&S** was elected secretary of the Community Transportation Association of Virginia. Charles is

transportation planner for Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission in Saluda.

**Bill Hershman '92BS/H&S** is morning news producer for WTVR News Channel 6 in Richmond.

**Harold Martin Jr. '91MBA/B** was named director of the Virginia Litigation and Claims Services Group for Coopers & Lybrand in Richmond.

**Catherine Taliaferro Massey '90BS/MC** is southeast region marketing director for The Money Store Investment Corporation in Richmond.

**Charles Massey '92BS/MC** and **Danah Wood '93BS/MC** were married July 2 in Richmond. Charles is marketing manager for Affiliated Attorneys, and Danah works in the public relations department at Kings Dominion.



## "LIFE IS TOO FULL . . ."

**John Will Creasy '42BFA/A** had a long life in art that put drama and color into the lives of everyone who lived in the Roanoke Valley with him. He died of cancer in Salem, Virginia on July 3, at 74.

Creasy's career as an innovator began early. At Richmond Professional Institute, Creasy was one of a handful of men on campus. (So few that the same faces turn up several times in the '41 RPI Annual.) Creasy served in the U.S. Army after graduation and survived the D-Day landing at Omaha Beach. He came home and married fellow arts graduate **Adelaide Snead Creasy '41BFA/A** in 1946.

Creasy founded the RPI Alumni Association and was its first president. **Kathleen Bullard '41BFA/A**, the group's "founding mother," knew him all his life. "He was a fine person and a fine artist," she says. "He deserves credit on a lot of grounds. He was very loyal to the school."

Creasy was an arts dynamo in Roanoke for fifty years and a determined non-elitist. "Good art can be found in decorating an office, a store window—even in designing street signs," he told a reporter. "Life is too full of things to limit our interests and endeavors to one."

Creasy started Associated Advertising in 1959 with partner Fred Corstaphney; the agency served clients until 1991. Bullard

comments that "Jack was both a good commercial artist and good fine artist. He painted excellent watercolors and helped found the Virginia Watercolor Society."

If there was an arts board, Creasy was on it, and if there wasn't, he would help establish it. Mill Mountain Theatre, the Art Museum of Western Virginia, Opera Roanoke, Arts Council of Roanoke Valley, the City of Roanoke Architectural Review Board and Arts Commission, Arts Place at Old First, the Sidewalk Art Show, all benefitted from his hard work. He supported arts education for children as well, with ArtVenture at the museum, and Children's Theatre.

Creasy received the first Perry K. Kendig Award for lifetime achievement in the arts from the Arts Council of Roanoke. He received the Advertising Federation of Roanoke Valley's first silver medal. Perhaps the most significant recognition was the group of friends and admirers who formed the John Will Creasy Art Society 20 years ago. "Lots of people were in it," says Bullard, "not just in the Valley, but all over the state." The group organized showings of his work and promoted the arts. They met officially every year on February 18, Creasy's birthday, with the honoree in bemused attendance.

Bullard has established a scholarship fund in his name, for a VCU honors student in painting. Alumni and friends may send contributions to Honors Program Annual Fund, the Jack Creasy Memorial Scholarship Fund; P.O. Box 842026; Richmond, VA 23284-2026.

## HIGH FLIGHT

A pilot's greatest thrill is that moment of breaking through the cloud cover to CAVU—ceiling and visibility unlimited. **Dr. Nancy Norvell '82MS '85PhD/H&S** had only been flying for a couple of years, but she had a pilot's confidence in CAVU all her life. Her dad told her early that she could do anything—play



COURTESY OF RISHA BALE

right field for Atlanta Braves, or fly. So, she earned a black belt in karate and later earned her MS and PhD in clinical psychology at VCU. Norvell received her diploma in psychology in 1992. She was teaching at the University of South Florida. She died February 10 when the Cessna she was flying crashed near Brownsville, Florida. She was 36.

Norvell's students, colleagues and clients recognized her joyful strength, and she used it to help them find it in themselves. "I learned to act more confident than I feel," she told the *St. Petersburg Times*. "I like to think I'm some type of role model. Again and again, undergraduates cling to someone who has personality and seems happy." One of her clients said in a story in *Hers* magazine, "She taught me how to laugh again."

A major part of a therapist's job is helping people work through the dark places in their lives, to find the light. This was especially true for Norvell. Many of her clients in the practice she ran with her husband, Tom Boaz, were rape victims. As an associate professor in law and mental health, she specialized in occupational stress management and stress related to violent crimes. She taught social workers and corrections officers how to deal with stress. She did groundbreaking research on the effects of the 1990 Gainesville murders on the community.

A feminist, Norvell taught a women's studies class and collaborated with women's groups, and she had just begun a monthly

radio program on women's health choices. She braved The Citadel, Charleston's military college, to lecture on feminism—and laughed to tell the tale. Talking to the *Times*, she said the cadets defined feminism as "a movement that strives to put men down." They used words like cold, psycho, liberal. "Of course, there, that's the worst thing you can say," she chuckled. Ultimately, she won them over with her humor and energy.

There were dark places in her own life, of course. Both of her parents died when she was in her twenties. A couple of days before she was killed, she had a miscarriage and took a few days off. Coworker Pam Gittings is convinced that when Norvell took the plane up, "she was attempting something joyful." Norvell never lost her trust in the light.

## EASY WRITER

Reporter **Tony Wassell '82BS/MC** died in Washington of complications from acute myeloid leukemia on June 26th, in Washington. Wassell had written for newspapers throughout Northern Virginia, and his work was recognized by the Virginia Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America, including four first-place awards for excellence in spot news, business and for his creative feature writing.

Wassell had traveled widely, especially in the western United States, Europe and the Middle East. He had recently embarked on a freelance career, doing travel writing for National Geographic Books, Time-Life and *Reader's Digest*. His last project was the *National Geographic Guide to Interstates*, published before he died.

Wassell was also a musician heard regularly in the Washington club scene playing guitar and bass.



The couple lives in Richmond.

**Becky May '93BS/H&S** and **Bruce Strickler '94BS/B** were married October 8 in Suffolk.

**Jennifer Kay Melton '93BS/H&S** and **Richard Bone '93BS/MC** were married August 27 in Troy, VA.

**James Meisner Jr. '93BS/MC** and **Amy Katheran Ruth '92BA/H&S** are engaged to be married in Coralville, IA. James is editor of *The Leader*, a weekly newspaper serving the tri-city area. Amy is editor of *The Goldfinch*, an award-winning children's history magazine. They were featured in "The Flood Zone," *Shafer Court Connections*, Spring 1994.

**Marcia Lynn Meredith '93BS/MC** is account media coordinator for Stuart Newman Associates in Miami Beach, FL.

**Martin Miller '92BS/MC** is assistant director of operations for Metro Traffic Control in Richmond.

**Elizabeth Mollerup '93BS/B** married Timothy Burroway on June 25. Elizabeth is assistant to the director of Alumni Affairs at UVA Law Foundation in Charlottesville, where the couple lives.

**Bobby Mooring '88BS/B** is safety superintendent at Aqualon Plant in Hopewell. Bobby was featured in the July 11 issue of *The Progress Index*, of Petersburg.

**Serena Moser '92BS/MC** is a junior account executive for WRVA-AM radio.

**Carla Sturzenbecher O'Grady '90BS/MC** was recently promoted to traffic manager at The Martin Agency in Richmond.

**V. Jay Paul '93MFA/A**, staff photographer for *Style Weekly* in Richmond, featured his latest work in the August 9 issue.

**Angela Pitt '93BS/MC** is publications director for Temple Beth-El in Richmond.

**Dr. Mary Anne Pugh '91PhD/H&S** is director of the Center for Counseling and Career Planning at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA.

**George Wilmer Robertson Jr. '91BS/H&S** married Pamela

Marie Holt, June 25 in Colonial Heights, VA. George works for CSC in Dewitt, VA where the couple resides.

**Suzanne Rossi '92MSW/SW** married Troy McDonough of Warrenton, VA, in September. Suzanne works for the Department of the Army.

**Robb Spewak '93BS/MC** is assistant producer for "Don & Mike," a nationally syndicated radio show. He is also public affairs director for Infinity Broadcasting WJFK-FM & AM in Washington, DC.

**Stacy Marvin Stevens '93BS/A** married Vicki Michele Whitesell, July 23 in Staunton. Stacy works for Howard Johnson.

**Brian Thomasson '94BA/H&S** began law school at the University of Dayton, and earned a \$5,000 Dean's Merit Scholarship for 1994-95.

**Anthony Van Johnson '90BA/H&S** married Deborah Coleman Coward on August 6. Anthony recently graduated from Loyola University School of Law. The couple lives in Atlanta, GA.

**Sean Vincent '92BFA/A** completed his "Artist-in-Residence" at Christ Church Episcopal Private School in Greenville, SC. Sean is a freelance illustrator in Richmond.

**Staci Anne Warren '92MT/E** married David Vermeer, July 9 in Disputanta, VA. Staci works for Chesterfield County Public Schools. The couple lives in Chester, VA.

**Barry Winebarger '91BS/B** married Marsha Ann Thorne, June 4 in Spotsylvania County, VA. Barry is an account coordinator for NEO-DATA in Stafford.

**Jennifer Dawn Wright '90BA/H&S** married Jeffrey Michael Grau of Sandston on September 10. Jennifer is assistant director of museums at the Chesterfield Historical Society.

## MASS COMM THINKS BIG

It really was "mass communications" when 260 alumni returned to campus to join School of Mass Communications faculty on Founders Day Weekend. Faculty member Jack Haberstroh looked happily at the throng in the Commonwealth Ballrooms and said, "In 12 years, this is the best alumni turnout and the best-organized event we've ever had. Interim Director Joyce Dodd and her



BILL LANE

*No rain, no ants, great dance. After an indoor picnic of fried chicken, hush puppies and cole slaw, alumni rocked to live music from "Leggz."*



BILL LANE

*Proud "pater." Guest Francine Broadus meets Charlyne McWilliams '91BS/MC and Cheryl Borg BS/MC who return to their alma mater to greet a founding father. George Crutchfield directed the Mass Comm program for 19 years.*

assistant David Benson deserve a lot of credit for thinking big."

Since June, Dodd and Benson have upgraded alumni connections, establishing valid addresses for 96 percent of Mass Comm grads. The School will be asking alumni soon whether they want to be included in an alumni directory coming out by summer. (And those other 4 percent can call in current information to (804) 828-2660.)

## Obituaries

### 1940s

**Ethel Hitt '46BSW/SW** April 18 at age 93.

**Rosalind Sinclair '48BS/E** March 13 in Jerseyville, IL.

### 1950s

**Gerald Nobles '58BFA/A**, actor-stage manager, died August 23 in New York of an AIDS-related illness.

### 1960s

**Walter Raines '69MS/E** in Kermit, WV.

### 1970s

**William W. Brown '79BS/E** in Midlothian, VA.

**Jean Crenshaw '78BS/MC** September 13, 1989 in Garland, TX.

**John Jamieson '74MFA/A** July 27 at Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, WI.

**Dr. Werner Lowenthal '79Med/E**, professor of pharmacy from 1961-92 and director of continuing education for the School of Pharmacy, died September 7, of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. He was 63. He worked to incorporate ethics into the pharmacy curriculum and was a member of the Richmond Bioethics Consortium.

**Brian Lurie '74BS/MC** August 1992 in Owings Mills, MD.

**Randolph Taylor '78BS/MC** March 1993 in Washington, DC.

### 1980s

**Ursula Robertson '89MSW/SW** April 28 in Disputanta, VA.

**Judith Vogelbach '81MSW/SW** April 12 in Lynchburg, VA.

# WHAT'S NEW?

*Shafer Court Connections* welcomes updates on marriages, family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—whatever you think is newsworthy. Help us keep track of you by completing and returning this form. Recent newspaper clippings and photographs are also appreciated. Please mail to **VCU Alumni Activities, 310 North Shafer Street, P. O. Box 843044, Richmond, Virginia 23284-3044.**

NAME/DEGREE/CLASS

SP/USE'S FULL NAME/(IF APPLIES) DEGREE/CLASS

CHILDREN (INDICATE IF CURRENTLY ATTENDING VCU)

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

☐ CHECK HERE IF NEW ADDRESS

JOB TITLE

EMPLOYER

BUSINESS ADDRESS

WORK PHONE

## JOIN US!

### I/We are enclosing

\_\_\_ \$20 individual membership  
VCU Alumni Association

\_\_\_ \$30 couple membership  
VCU Alumni Association  
or

\_\_\_ \$30 individual membership  
in African American Alumni  
Council (includes dual  
membership in VCUAA)

\_\_\_ \$40 couple membership in  
African American Alumni  
Council (includes dual  
membership in VCUAA)

Please make checks  
payable to **VCUAA**.

### Key To Abbreviations

Alumni are identified by year  
degree/school

### Schools, Colleges, Divisions

- A Arts
- AH Allied Health Professions
- B Business
- BH Basic Health Sciences
- D Dentistry
- E Education
- H&S Humanities and Sciences
- M Medicine
- MC Mass Communications
- N Nursing
- NTS Nontraditional Studies
- Program/Office of Academic Affairs
- P Pharmacy
- SW Social Work
- Other abbreviations
- C Certificate
- BGS Bachelor of General Studies
- BFA, MFA Bachelor, Master of Fine Art
- HLD Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

### The Way We Were (from page 2)

It's Franklin St. Gym at  
Richmond Professional Institute,  
stage 1, built in the early '50s.  
The rest of the gym came when  
the rest of the money was appropriated in 1956.

### NEWS

**Important Note:** If this magazine is addressed to an alumnus who no longer lives at the address provided on the address label, please advise us so that we can correct our records. If you know the person's correct address, we would appreciate that information. Also, if a husband and wife are receiving more than one copy of the magazine, we would like to know so that we can avoid duplicate mailings. Please provide the names of both individuals plus the wife's maiden name, if appropriate.

☐ I am interested in sponsoring a student extern. Please send an information form.



## PAYING OUR WAY

VCU alumni have given generously to the university in many ways, and we thank you for your support. Your VCU Alumni Association dues have helped build the Alumni Board Room in the University Commons. They support school events and programs for alumni and students. In the years ahead, alumni programs and services, including Shafer Court Connections, must become self-sufficient. We have to begin paying our way.

Dues are the foundation of an independent, productive alumni association. Active members of VCUAA pay annual dues of \$20 for a single membership and \$30 for a couple. Renewal reminders are mailed to all members each year on the anniversary of their original membership.

Association membership offers you a number of services and benefits, including discounts at both university bookstores, use of VCU's Thalheimer tennis courts, discounts on VCU Libraries' fees, and discounts at five hotels in the Richmond area. Soon, members will have special access to VCU Outing Center rentals and tours.

We have introduced several new services this year, including a credit card program, a discounted long distance telephone service and an insurance program. And members will soon be eligible for group major medical insurance coverage.

The African-American Alumni Council (AAAC), celebrating its fifth year of activity under the VCUAA umbrella, has developed a membership program that supplements its work for minority students. Annual dues are \$30 for single membership and \$40 for a couple, which entitles alumni to dual membership in the AAAC and the VCU Alumni Association.

## BUYING SMART

### SPECIAL SERVICES FOR VCU ALUMNI

*Find services you need at high value.  
Demonstrate pride and partnership in VCU.  
Protect your privacy.*

You shop for value and quality. When VCUAA does the shopping for all 90,000 alumni, we look for the same things you do. We think these are services you can really use, as you support VCU.

**CREDIT CARD.** With First Union Bank, VCUAA offers a special VISA card with a low interest rate pegged at 5.9% above prime. While many cards offer an extremely low introductory rate, the VCU Card offers one of the lowest long-term rates in the industry. First Union Bank has a reputation for prompt, accurate, courteous service. The card features the new VCU MARK, so you can display your VCU pride every time you use it.

For information or sign-up, call (800) 359-3862.

**LDDS LONG DISTANCE CALLING CARD.** The LDDS long distance calling program offers very low calling rates, simple rates without gimmicks, and features that are excellent for business or personal use. No phone solicitation or high-pressure techniques. The card is easy to use and the service outstanding. For information or sign-up, call (800) SERVICE.

**INSURANCE.** In the current economic climate, many alumni find themselves without insurance protection. VCUAA is assembling a comprehensive package of group plans to fit any need from short-term emergencies to long-term stability.

Gradmed Short-term (60-180 days) major medical policy is offered to graduating seniors, but can provide comprehensive major medical protection for most alumni. It can fill the gap between graduation and employee medical coverage, or emergency loss of protection.

Term Life is offered for nine months free to new graduates and as a paid policy to all alumni. We chose term life for its low cost and flexibility to meet the changing circumstances facing many alumni.

Comprehensive Major Medical and Supplemental Major Medical will be available very soon. These are long-term policies designed for alumni groups. Rates are very competitive, rate increases have been below the industry average, and acceptance rate for applicants is near 90 percent. These are superior group medical plans for the growing number of alumni confronting the trend to reduce or eliminate medical coverage as an employee benefit.

For information or enrollment in VCUAA insurance, call (800) 922-1245.

## GET A JOB, SHA-NA-NA-NA

Need a job? Have a job, need an employee? The University Career Center can help you both.

At any given time, hundreds of VCU seniors and alumni are in the Career Center Network database. Once registered, they can call our 24-hour job hotline to hear current jobs that match their career and geographic interests. Employers can contact us for resumes on the network in their field. In any given month, the Career Center posts more than 5,000 job opportunities in accounting, computer programming, education, sales, and other fields—many of them on the job line.

Employers find quality employees among alumni. Alumni job seekers add to their employer contacts. And this service is free to VCU alumni.

So, connect at the Center.

Employers, call (804) 828-1645; fax: (804) 828-2060 or email: [swalker@cabell.vcu.edu](mailto:swalker@cabell.vcu.edu).

Job seekers, register your resume on a preformatted disk (IBM compatible). Alumni in area zip codes 23000-23299 can pick up a disk at the University Career Center, Room 130 of the Student Commons at 907 Floyd Ave. from 8a.m.-6p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 8a.m.-4:30p.m. Fri. No charge.

Alumni in other zips may write for a disk to VCU Alumni Activities, P.O. Box 843044; 310 N. Shafer St.; Richmond VA 23284-3044. Include a \$2.50 check made out to VCU Alumni Activities for postage and handling. Return the completed disk to the University Career Center, P.O. Box 842007. Career Center phone is (804) 828-1645.

## VCU WANTS YOU!

Wanted! VCU Alumni to share their VCU experiences with prospective students and to help the Admissions Office recruit them. Here's how you can help.

- \* Send Admissions the names and addresses of interested high school students.

- \* Volunteer to represent VCU at a college fair in your hometown.

For more information or to send prospective student data, contact: Delores Taylor, Associate Director of Admissions; P.O. Box 842526; 821 West Franklin St.; Richmond, VA 23284-2526. Call (804) 828-1190; fax: (804) 828-1899. Or call our 800 number: (800) 841-3638.

## CELEBRATION FOR LIFE!

The Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Auxiliary will host a gala "Celebration for Life!" at the Richmond Marriott on March 11, 1995 at 7 p.m. There will be an elegant dinner and dynamic entertainment by New York's "Le Masquerade." This year's gala benefits the Hospital Hospitality House, Oncology Rehabilitation and the Child Life Program. We are also pleased to announce that Governor and Mrs. George Allen are Honorary Chairs of the event. Single tickets are \$87.50; \$175 per couple.

# Have You Heard the News?



## BIG RPI REUNION

APRIL 28-30, 1995

*All RPI Alumni Are Invited!*

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